

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 3, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Nicole Merrison

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Hymn No. 398 "Rise Up, O Men of God"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) O thou God of holy love, we acknowledge that at the beginning of this year our lives do not stand before Thee as a book unwritten. Much that we shall do has been spelled out already, even before the year has begun. Inscribed deep within are old habits and familiar behavior patterns. We know that these in large part will write for us the history of this coming year. Cause us to be aware of thy forgiving grace, and when we have written a life page full of the errors of our misdeeds, help us to acknowledge ourselves for what we are, and to seek thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Requiem Observance and Prayer

Mrs. Margaret Cox, Robert Wickenhagen, Frances Atwell,

Clyde Wachsmuth, Eleanor Sandbach, Jennifer Sybert,

William Zavacky Sr., Grace Gillen

Friends: Margaret Fox, Mildred Janicki

Hymn No. 614 "For All the Saints"

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: Organ and Saxophone

Scripture: Ephesians 6: 10-13

Sermon: "Defensive Strategy"

\*Hymn of Invitation No. 616 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + +

\*Congregation Standing

+ + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Andrews Family in memory of loved ones.

Mr. & Mrs. Marty Henry will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Marty Henry, Frank Crawford, John Snow and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 107 with 16 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today.

Council representatives will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Ben Hockenberry in BMH - *DUTCH BELAH*

SUNDAY - Youth group at 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY - need help to take down the Christmas Tree

WEDNESDAY - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY - Chancel choir practice at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

> January 17th immediately following church the youth will be holding another Soup & Sandwich luncheon in the hall. If you would like to donate a pot of soup, please see Bob, Mary Jane or one of the Youth. We look forward to your help and support.

> January 12th - Teachers meeting at 7:00 P.M. We would like to see all of the teachers and helpers present.

January 19th - Audit of all treasurers books within the church. Times for the audit are posted in the office. Please be sure to check for your time.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION is now due in. Those chairmen from 1987 are to report on their committees and the newly elected chairman for 1988. Please get this all into the office to avoid confusion for the new yearbook.

> NOMINATIONS FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS will be taken during the month of January. Each Sunday you may nominate someone. Please put their name on the small slips of paper found in the back of the pews and drop in the offering plate.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

"Defensive Strategy"  
 Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-13  
 (Ilus Boeing 707 circl Omaha for S.A.C.)  
 This is only part of defens syst that on cal 24hr day  
 2 protec us  
 1<sup>st</sup> reflece on lif/on any lev of existenc it liv use  
 defensiv strategy  
 we think it mosly in sport wher impertiv 2hav means  
 defens 2B employ 2preven op fr scor  
 P's lettr 2 Ch in Eph writ 2giv propr perspec 2tru Xpi  
 2day & in nex few wks B4 Lent Bgin wil lk=Def Strat  
 P outlin in end this lettr  
 Here in 6th chap P conclud lettr w/not only gud advic  
 but in this portin scrip 2day,employ pep talk  
 vs 10a=means this ult all writ prior 2this  
 prob B fac in Ch Eph was knu victry was secur  
 evry Xpian kno this=thru Xp we 4givn/hav etrnal lif  
 so wat hap=many Xpian rest on laurels  
 they feel no need do anythin=no need get involv ch wk  
 feel=Im takn care of thru Xp & that enuf  
 thoz this mind oft 4get,evrday we involv battl lif  
 2merly sit bak & try enjoy gud lif w/out regar 2our  
 liv of Xpianity is 2 fal in2 hands of Satn  
 We R 2weak own strength 2withstan evil 1 & we mus  
 stan in strength of Lord  
 vss 11-12=P warn Xpian wen seek liv 4-Lord,vulnrb1 2  
 stratagems of Satn  
 I kno we liv enlitrn age,& many put dwn idea of demns  
 as stupid think but wen P say=vs 12, he say we R  
 involv battl w/sumth canot C or touch,but it ther  
 (Ilus Bill McLeod & demn poses yng man)  
 (I Jn MacArthur & demn poses girl=get him out,)  
 we audnt dwel demns/devils,or start lk 4undr evry  
 tabl/chair etc,but they R real & we need 2kno we in  
 constan battl w/them wen seek 2liv 4-Lord  
 Satn duznt need atak thoz who R liv apart G's wil  
 he has them wher want them  
 But his plan is 2atak/discorag th 1's seek fol Xp  
 I Bliev firmly Satn works his hardes Sunday morn  
 (Ex=wat we wud rathr do=sleep,golf,picnic,lk weathr,  
 & how bout kids no want go?)  
 G has sho in His Word how Satn atak Blievr  
 Apos Jn exil Isl Patmos & wrot Rev  
 Rev. 1:10-11=Jn 2receiv info wh writ dwn & send 7  
 ch's in Asia & thoz wer actul Ch's  
 in vs 11=wh is 1st Ch? Ch at Eph  
 why list as #1? Bcuz was 1st Ch & th othr ch's wer  
 born out of it  
 incidently,can lk ch's evry age & clasify in catgor:  
 of Ch=Eph,Smyna,etc.

Ea ch histry canB cp 2-1 thez 7ch's by wat do/not do2/  
 let us lk wat Jn writ 1st ch at Eph=vss 1-3  
 Ch strng & stud agin gals ldrs/teachrs  
 (Expl templ Diana;Nicolaitans,imorlty)  
 But Js say=vs 4 & mean:  
 they exch hot luv 4-Xp in2 cold orthodoxy  
 t<sup>h</sup> serv had no joy,no entusiasm as lnce did  
 it was Ho-Hum's ville wen wors  
 Can we mak cps 2day? do U hav sam luv 4-Xp as lnce did  
 If luv anyth this worl,famlys,homes,poss mor than  
 luv Xp,then we 2 hav los 1st luv  
 if we serv Xp in ded,ritulistic way,then we mis purp  
 of Xpian lif  
 All need 2do is lk wat hapn Xpian Ch 2day & we can  
 redily C ansr 2wher Ch stan 2day  
 if worl chang rnd it & ch seek adap 2it,Ch is wrong  
 Ex=famly,womn,home,moralty,etc & ch adap 2it  
 This is anti-Biblical  
 (Ilus Wm Fore articl on Electronic Ch)  
 this wat P tel peo Eph,& cal them from  
 vs 13=We R 2put on protectin can only wum fr tru  
 folowr of Xp  
 (Ilus B. Sunday & Fite on Cornr wher U R)  
 this wat P admonish peo in Ch of Eph  
 that wat we R cal 2do also  
 We R here not 2 drift & dream but 2fite on cornr  
 wher we R  
 We R 2B bout our Defensiv Stratgy in prep selvs 2fite  
 agin Satn & his forces in worl  
 R U wil 2put on grrm of G & fite th battl mor strngl;  
 in this yr?  
 F<sup>o</sup> 1 of Ur resolutins bin,or wil it B 2liv closr  
 2 Jn Lord this yr?  
 2serv Him,& luv Him w/th liv of Ur lif?  
 I exten that invitatin 2 U 2Bgin liv 4 Him



(Ilus Wm Fore on Electronic Ch)  
 They sit at hom in fr of ther TV's & th  
 Ch cums 2them. They dont hav 2get dresd  
 & lv th hous-its a perf envirnment  
 Bu its anothr part of fantasy. TV is a  
 fantasy & our worl wants 2liv in that  
 fantasy. Th Ch that cums in2 our homs is  
 a perf Ch. Th music is unBlievbl. It has  
 a grand orchestra & grt singrs. Th preach  
 givs a perf mesag. In th fantasy ch U  
 nevr hav 2sit nex 2anyl U dont like, no 1  
 disturbs U & U dont hav 2find a plac ~~2par~~  
 2park. All U hav 2do is send them a littl  
 mony now & then 2eas Ur conscience & they  
 will tel U, U R winning th world. They may  
 send U sumth U can plastr on Ur wal 2pruv  
 how sacrificial U R. Wat a sad coment-  
 ary on th Ch. Th electronic Ch is bilt 4  
 entrtainemnt. It duplicats th very things  
 in th world that th Ch has always condemr  
 Th electronic Ch is mere expresin of  
 culturl relig, copying th value, glittr,  
 & trappings of th very values & kinds of  
 success we as Xpians profes 2reject  
 Lets liv in th real world. Wen th Ch is  
 so smug & comfortbl in its compromising  
 positin, it fals into th worlds fantasy.

(Ilus B. Sunday & Fite on Cornr wher U R

(Ilus Boeing 707 circl Omaha)

vs 10A

vss 11-12

(Ilus Bill McLeod & demn poses yng man)

(Ilus Jn MacArthur & demn poses girl=get  
 him out! Not him! Get him out!)

(Expl Satn Sundy morn work)

G sho in Word how Satan atak

Rev. 1:10-11

## "Defensive Strategy"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-13

(Illustration of Boeing 707 of S.A.C. flying over Omaha)

~~I read recently that a lone Boeing 707~~

I read recently that a lone Boeing 707 circles Omaha, Nebraska every hour, every day of the year, carrying a general whose job means life or death for millions. The plane is an aerial command post for the Strategic Air Command, called a flying trigger that would send nuclear missiles into action if the United States were attacked.

This is only part of a defense system that is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to protect us. ~~And if we think of life~~ But if we reflect on life on any level of existence, it is lived using "Defensive Strategy." We think of it mostly in sports where it is imperative that a means of defense be employed to prevent the opposition from scoring.

Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus was written to give the proper perspective to a true Christian. Today and in the next few weeks before Lent begins we are going to look at the "defensive Strategy which Paul outlines in the end of this letter. Here in this 6th chapter, Paul concludes this letter with not only good advice, but in this short portion of Scripture, he employs a pep talk.

He says, "Finally, my brethren." He ~~means~~ means that this is the ultimate end of all that he has written prior to this. The problem being faced in the Church at Ephesus was that they knew victory was secure. Every Christian knows this. We know that through Christ we have the forgiveness of our sins and that when a Christian dies he goes to live eternally with God. So what happens for too many Christians is that they rest on their laurels. No need to do anything. No need to get involved in the work of the Church, I'm taken care of through Christ and that's it. But what happens so often is that those who are of this mind forget that everyday we are involved in the battle of life. To merely sit back and try to enjoy the good life without regard to our living of Christianity is to fall into the trap of Satan. We are too weak in our own strength to withstand the evil one, we must stand in the strength of the Lord.

Paul warns us by saying, (read verses 11-12). Paul is warning the Christian that when he seeks to live for the Lord, he is vulnerable to the stratagems of Satan. Now I know that we live in an enlightened age, and I know that we want to put down any thinking that there is such a thing as Satan. But when Paul says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood," he is saying that we are involved in a battle with something we cannot see or touch, but it is there.

(Illustration of Bill McCloud and demon possessed young man)

A few years ago when the Rev. William McCloud from Canada was holding services over at the Calvary Church on the Diamond, at the conclusion of one of the services a young man came forward to be prayed for. Bill took him into one of the offices where several ministers went also. There, Bill



began to pray for this young man who was kneeling by a chair. Suddenly, this young man began to throw himself around and another voice was coming out of him. I saw firsthand what a demon in a person can do.

John MacArthur tells of having a similar incident take place in his church in California. Some of the staff were praying for a girl who was demon possessed and they had sent for John to help them pray. He said when he walked into the room, a voice not that of the ~~first~~ girl cried out from within her, "Get him out! Not him! Get him out!" The deacon cried out against him because he was and is God's man.

We shouldn't dwell on devils or demons or start looking for them under every table or chair, or behind the door. But they are real and we need to know we are in a constant battle with them when we are seeking to live for the Lord. Satan doesn't need to attack those who are living apart from God's will. He has them where he wants them. But his plan is to attack and discourage the one who seeks to follow Christ. I believe firmly that Satan works his hardest on Sunday mornings. Answer honestly, what do you feel like doing on Sunday morning many times? You want to roll over and go back to sleep; or go play golf; or go on a picnic; or look at the weather and decide it's too bad to go to church. Right? How about your kids? Do they want to get ready to go to Sunday School and church?

God has shown in His Word how Satan attacks believers. The Apostle John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos and while there God gave him the visions of the book of Revelation. Turn to that book and let's look at the first chapter. In the 10th verse we read, (read verse 10-11). John is to receive information which he is to write down and send to the seven churches in Asia. Those were ~~actually~~ seven actual churches. In the 11th verse do you see which is the first church? It was the church at Ephesus. Why is it listed as number one? Because it was the first church and the other churches were born out of it. And incidentally, we can look at the churches of every age and classify them as the church of Ephesus, or Smyrna and so on. Each church in history can be compared to one of the seven according to what it is doing or not doing. But let us look at what John was to write to the first church at Ephesus. (Read verses 1-3). The church was strong and it stood against false teachers and leaders. But the Lord tells the church at Ephesus, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

This isn't John's words, these are the words of Jesus Himself to John. The Church at Ephesus had thrown the city into confusion. The city of Ephesus was the center for the worship of the goddess Diana. The temple of Diana in Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the world. Within that temple, scores of priestesses and prostitutes performed the sexual orgies that passed for religion. There were also the Nicolaitans which was a group of followers of a man named Nicholas who taught immorality also. The Church at Ephesus stood against this immoral climate and had prevailed. But Jesus told them they had lost their first love. What this simply means is that they had exchanged



their hot love for Christ into a cold orthodoxy. Their services had no joy, no enthusiasm as they once did. It was Ho-hum'sville when they worshiped. Can we make comparisons today? Do you have the same love for Christ you once had? If we love anything in this world, our families, our homes, our possessions more than we love Christ, then we too have lost our first love. If we are serving Christ in a dead ritualistic way, then we are missing the purpose of the Christian life.

All we need to do is to look at what is happening in the Christian Church today and we can readily answer the question of where the church stands today. If the world changes around it, the church seeks to adapt itself to the world. The church jumps on the bandwagon of the ~~new~~ world and <sup>does</sup> ~~do~~ what the world is doing. If the world's view of the family, or woman, or the home, or morality changes, the church has accepted this and said we must adapt to it, even when the Church knows it is anti-Biblical.

(Illustration of William Fore in Article - The Electronic Church")

They sit at home in front of their televisions, and the church comes to them. They don't have to get dressed and leave the house - it's a perfect environment. But it's only another part of the fantasy. Television is a fantasy, and our world wants to live in that fantasy. The church that comes into our homes is a perfect church. The music is unbelievable. It has a grand orchestra and ~~many~~ great singers. The preacher gives a perfect message. In the fantasy church you never have to sit next to anyone you don't like, no one ever ~~disturbs~~ disturbs you, and you don't have to find a place to park. All you have to do is send them a little money now and then to ease your conscience, and they will tell you you are winning the world. They may send you something you can plaster on your wall to prove how sacrificial you are. What a sad commentary on the church. The electronic church is built on entertainment. It duplicates the very things in the world that the church has always condemned. The electronic church is a mere expression of cultural religion, copying the value, glitter, and trappings of the very values and kinds of success that we as Christians profess to reject. Let's live in the real world. When the church is so snug and comfortable in its compromising position, it falls into the world's fantasy.

This is what Paul was calling the people of Ephesus from. Paul says in the 13th verse, (read this). We are to put on the protection which can only come from a true following of Christ.

(Illustration of Billy Sunday and "Fight on the Corner where you are")

The evangelist Billy Sunday was preaching in Cleveland for a week. Each night he noticed a little Italian man who sat down front on the aisle. The man seemed to be all wrapped up in the service and especially when they sang the last hymn. At that time they ~~closed~~ closed the service each night with the hymn, "Brighten The Corner Where You Are." On the last night, Mr. Sunday determined that he just had to talk to this man. So before the man could get away, Mr. Sunday got to him and asked him about being there each night. The man told him that he liked the services, but he liked the singing best of all. And he liked to sing the last song, because he said he liked a good fight. When Mr. Sunday asked what he meant the man replied, "The last song tells us that, "Fight on the corner where you are."

That is exactly what Paul is admonishing the people in the Church of Ephesus to do. And that is exactly what we are called to do. We are here not to

drift and dream, but to "Fight on the corner where we are." We are to be about our "Defensive Strategy," in preparing ourselves to fight against Satan and his forces in the world. Are you willing to put on the armor of God and fight the battle more strongly in this new year? Has one of your resolutions been, or will one of your resolutions be to live closer to the Lord this year? To serve Him and love Him with the living of your life? I extend that invitation to you to begin living for Him.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 10, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Nicole Merrison  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 118 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) O thou who didst cause thy star to  
shine on kings in realms afar, we pray that all the  
kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of thy Son.  
Teach us to speak the Word of the Gospel in the strange  
lands of business and science, of school and shop, that  
we may be the instruments through which thy will may  
be done. Forgive our abuse of the name Christian by  
hoarding it for ourselves and not sharing it in all  
areas of our lives. These things we ask in His name.  
Amen.

\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 611 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "Trust and Obey"  
Scripture: Ephesians 6:14a  
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Belt"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 613 "Fight the Good Fight"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by the  
Women's Fellowship in memory of those called home in 1987.  
Mrs. Diana Hollefreund will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Helen Riemer, Phyllis Tait, Alma  
Dally and Shirley Thompson.  
Attendance last Sunday was 126 with 12 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Gamble.  
Howard Jaillet and Art Snyder will be visiting the hosp-  
ital this week.

> Hospitalized: Doris Zavacky in BMH  
SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7:00 P.M.  
Bible Study group at 7:00

MONDAY - Activities Committee meeting at 6:30  
Elders and Music Committee will meet at 7:30  
TUESDAY - Sunday School Teachers meeting at 7:00  
THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice from 6 to 7 P.M.  
Chancel Choir will practice 7 to 8:30 P.M.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

> January 17th - Youth will hold its Soup & Sandwich lunch  
immediately following the service. Hope you join us.  
January 18th - Finance Committee will meet at 7:00  
January 19th - Auditing books will begin at 6:00 P.M.  
Please check the schedule in the office.

We need volunteers to sign up for flowers. Dates needed are  
January 24th, February 7th, and following months.

> Valentine Dinner plans are underway. This year it will be  
held February 13th at 6:00 P.M. at the South Butler Fire-  
hall. Price of the dinner is \$8.50 and the choice of  
meats is stuffed chicken breast or braised steak. See  
Marilyn Snyder or Bill & Ione Pflugh to put in your  
reservation. Reservation deadline is February 4th.

> January 30th the Youth will hold a Spaghetti Dinner in the  
hall. A real Italian chef has volunteered to come and  
prepare the spaghetti. Tickets are now available from  
Bob and Mary Jane. Make plans to come for "all you can  
eat" and a good evening. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults,  
and \$2.00 for children 8 and under. They are asking our  
help by donating cakes for the dinner. If you can do so  
please let Bob know.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond the God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself  
of this opportunity.



"Defensive Dress: The Breastplate"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14B  
 (Ilus man/womn lumbr yard & how long wantd boards)  
 G giv ea persn lif 2B liv & mos pec liv fairly lng  
 G desir dur that tim we liv we use livs 4His Glory  
 but lif such that sun kno in constan strugl 2merly  
 priv

But our Creatr nevr want this 2happn  
 His Creatin perf/gud & nevr ment 2B that way  
 but man sin, turn fr G & this caus sepratin fr G &  
 constan warfar man fac is Bcuz this  
 But G had plan so man cud restor 2-Himself thru Js  
 & wen man has that relatship w/G thru Xp he need  
 sumthin Byon jus that relatship & that is th purpos  
 of th Ch of Js Xp

Th Ch aford ea Blievr optunt 2hav plac wher canB  
 w/othr Blievrs & 2gethr can liv/gro in faith  
 This exac wat Apos P was think bout in dismal jail  
 cel chain 2Rmn soddier  
 he cudnt help but notic uniform of thez fite men  
 Rome provid 2gard him

Ea pc had specil & uniq purpos  
 So P pictur ea thez pcs as sumth ea Blievr shud poses  
 in warfar agin Satn & forces evil in th worl  
 So P admonish yng ch at Eph 2put on Defensiv Dres  
 4 this constan battl

In conversatin & observatin P lern use ea part &  
 how soddier don uniform pc by pc  
 So it is read chap 6 of thez pcs sp armr, but also pro  
 gresin of how put on

Rmn soddier 1st put on belt-wen snug redy, loos-off  
 We spok las wk P tel Blievr gird loins w/belt truth  
 uth was atitud of truth or commitment of Blievr  
 Nex, soddier put on Bresplate & this pc armr made 1-  
 pc covr fr neck 2thighs & belt held Bresplat in plac  
 P saw bresplat as rep ritusnes & ther sevr1 reasns:  
 Th Jews Bliev 2parts body vulnrbl-hart & bowels  
 2Jews hart symbolizly represent mind  
 this why Js spok bout out of hart cum evil thots  
 Jews Bliev bowels wer seat of emotins & feelings  
 Scrip spk-bowels of mercy sevr1 places  
 so only naturl lk mos vulnrbl parts body & seek 2  
 protec them

Satn atck Blievr in 2vttl area-his think & emotins  
 he wants feed our minds & emotins fals info  
 he duz this w/fals doctrin, lies relig untruth  
 he want us desir wat evil & he mak atractiv/desir  
 this is wat prob w/in ch 2day jus as prob then, only  
 much mor multiply many tims ovr sinc we hav advanc  
 (Ilus teachr & litl Joe-& intelectul snobry)

Fr this can C now Satn lul intelectul comunt 2/  
 in2 Bliev that Blief in G is detriment 2educatin  
 So it is P C Brestplat as prtectin of vttl area &  
 he cal brestplat th pc of armr that is ritusnes  
 But jus wat is P try 2say here=-vs 14B  
 (Ilus Rev Come & grad fr coleg-diploma)  
 R' pnes is lthoz thing 4wh cud say=Truly ther less  
 here than meets the eye

We try defin ritusnes we find very difcult & that  
 due lrgly 2fac in odr 2C all of it we need try 2C  
 it fr G's perspectiv  
 In Serm Mt Js say=Seek ye 1st th kingdm of G & His  
 ritusnes

th very 1st elmen of liv Xpian lif is 2seek G's rit-  
 usnes 1st-not 2nd, or 3rd, but FIRST

Now jus wat is that ritusnes?  
 The 1st of all-Imputed Ritusnes & this is ritusnes  
 wh is imputed, or givn, it is handed ovr 2anothr  
 this ritusnes evry Blievr receiv fr & thru Js Xp  
 It not ritusnes that earnd, or deserv, it ritusnes  
 that ours only thru Xp alon

We receiv Him as Sav, then hav imput ritusnes  
 But this not wat P writ bout

He writ wat Puritans called-Imptd ritusnes  
 this ritusnes whon by how liv  
 wat is ment is step by step proces; actuly it a  
 moment by moment impart or giv of ritus liv 4 God

Fr this can C Belt & Breastplate R very closely conec  
 It is comitment 2caus of Xp & practicl liv wh will  
 win batl of lif in th warfar we involv in  
 (Ilus burro & steer)

As we strugl w/lif may find self ty up real close &  
 i) hap it seem no soonr get ovr lprob, nothr tak place  
 But G kno wat we go thru & He kn our faith grows &  
 as duz our stubborn Xpian atitud continu 2lead us hor  
 We mayB abus, & hurt, & seem lik ther no end our probs  
 But G will enabl us 2get 2our feet tim afr tim &  
 mov 2ward home

lday we will stan B4 th thron of our Sav & we will  
 kno it has bin worth it

But we need 2B ty 2Him in this lif  
 As U think Ur persnl strugl w/lif, watevr Ur probs  
 mayB, jus reach out 2Him & tak His hand in Urs &  
 liv 4 Him

That is invitatin 2ea us ovr & ovr agin  
 Wil U tak His invitatin & cum 2 Him?

(Ilus copple at lumbr yard)

(Ilus teachr littl Joe-intelectul snobry)

(Ilus Rev Gome & grad diploma)

Truly ther les here than meets th eye

impute ritusnes  
impart ritusnes

(Ilus burro & steer)

## "Defensive Dress: The Belt"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14A

(Illustration of Battle of Waterloo and The Duke of Wellington)

In the Battle of Waterloo at one particular point the battle was raging fiercely. An officer galloped up to the commanding officer of the British forces, the Duke of Wellington to report that the troops could no longer hold their position, and they needed reinforcements. The Duke of Wellington told him, "Tell your officer in charge to stand." The soldier galloped back and told his superior. Shortly, another officer came to the Duke with the same request and the answer was the same, "Tell him to stand." Yet a third officer came with the same news and the Duke replied, "I have no help to send, Tell him to stand." This officer saluted and replied, "You will find us there, Sir," and galloped off. When the battle was over and the British had fought and won, there they all were, all of them, dead in their place. They had stood even though ~~the~~ to stand meant death.

This is the advice that Paul gives to the members of the Church of Jesus Christ, specifically to the Church at Ephesus and generally to all churches throughout the world. ~~Stand there~~ "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore."

The command is to "Stand," and that means to be planted and rooted firmly in the faith. When Martin Luther had withstood the Roman Catholic Church and stood before his accusers and was asked to recant, to take back what he had said and done, he replied, "I can do no else, so help me God, here I stand." He was standing upon the unshakeable faith which was his in Christ. But more than this he was taking his stand on what Paul stated next after having written, "Stand therefore."

This was a rather strange and unique situation which prompted Paul to write as he did. Compared to the normal reaction of a prisoner, Paul was ~~the~~ exact opposite. Normally, every prisoner has only one thing in mind and that is to be freed from where he is imprisoned. Paul would have desired this too, but instead of bemoaning the fact that he was in prison and expending all of his efforts to gain his release, Paul took advantage of his time in prison to write letters to the churches which he had started before he was imprisoned. The picture is this: Paul is imprisoned in a Roman jail. But since he was a political prisoner and in need of protection from others who wanted to take his life, Paul was chained 24 hours a day to a Roman soldier. Only eternity will reveal how many of those guards Paul led to the Lord and converted because Paul does not write this and brag of it. But from his writings we glean that Paul took those opportunities to share the Gospel with his guards. A Paul ponders the needs of the Church in Ephesus, he thinks of the past from which the members of that church came. All of them had risen above the mystery religions which abounded in that city and all others like it. In those religions there were no ~~sin~~ solutions to the problems of life. Supposedly it was all tied up in the mystery of whatever god or goddess they were following and supposedly only a few gained that knowledge.



So constantly each initiate of those religions sought to get closer to the inner mystery, but were always thwarted and ~~frustrated~~ never got to the actual truth. So when Paul came along with his simple message of God's love given through Jesus Christ and this cleared up the mystery of life, many of these people jumped at the opportunity to become followers of Christ. Thus a church was formed and it began to exert its influence in Ephesus.

But the immoral and idolatrous background from which the church came from ~~it~~ was still there and the leaders of those godless movements exerted their influence to pull the members of that church from their new found faith. With this in mind, Paul realized that these new Christians were involved in a battle for their very existence. And he recognized that this battle was being led by none other than Satan himself. As he reasoned how to fight this battle Paul knew that in order to win, the believer had to be properly prepared. It is one thing to know that you are going to fight against something but it another thing to have the proper preparation. So as Paul thinks through this situation he looks at his circumstances and from them, is able to equip the believer with that which is necessary for the battle. Paul is literally chained to a Roman soldier and these men were the best fighting men in the world at that time. But in order for them to be the best, they had to have the best equipment. So Paul looks at the dress of the Roman soldier and he uses their equipment as illustrations for the equipment a believer must have in the spiritual battle he faces and fights against Satan and his demons in the world.

Thus Paul begins by saying, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth," Ephesians 6:14A.

Paul, being the good Jew that he was, remembered the instructions which God had given the Israelites when they departed from Egypt as recorded in the second book of the Law which Moses wrote, the book of Exodus. There in that book, the 12th chapter God gave instructions to the people what they were to do. They were to prepare the ~~lamb~~ Passover lamb and to eat it that night.

In the 11th verse of that chapter God ~~said~~ said, "And thus ~~ye~~ shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover."

Paul could compare those ancient Jews girding their loins with the Roman ~~ex~~ soldier in front of him because there was a similarity. The people of the time of Moses and down to the time of Paul wore long robes. The robes served the purpose of clothing them and providing protection from the elements. But they hampered a person in the performance of their duty. If a person has to be very active, or even run, he couldn't do it with the robes as it was. So in order to be able to run or move fast, the robe was ~~xx~~ pulled up to the waist and tucked into the girdle or belt worn around the middle. The tunic of the Roman soldier was similar in the respect that it was a square piece of cloth, with a hole cut out for the head and holes cut out for the arms.



It too hung down rather long and ~~waxxfaxte~~ a belt was wron around the middle. For battle, the ends of the tunic were pulled up into the belt and as Paul said, "The loins were girt about."

But Paul uses this llustration to tell the believer to have his loins girt about with ~~the~~ truth. Now what did he mean by this?

Paul was talking about the leather belt the Roman soldier wore around his middle. This belt served to keep the tunic pulled in, but it was also the piece of equipment from which hung his scabbard for his sword. Paul did not mean that the belt was the truth, but that it supported the truth. We will cover that subject about the content of truth in another lesson. What Paul is an attitude of truth. When the belt is on the soldier, and his tunic is tucked into the belt, the soldier is in an attitude of readiness. He is prepared at that point to engage in the battle. The truth Paul is talking about here is "Commitment." How committed we are reveals the truth about us. To be committed means to be not only prepared, but to be preparing. That is what separates the true-believer from those who are just going through the motions. I'm certain that most of us at one time or another have known someone who is deeply spiritual and more advanced than we are. And then when that person by something said or done shows up our lack of what they have, we have made some sly remark about them, because we recognize their spiritual superiority over us and it distrubs us, because secretly we would like to be like them, but we are unwilling to put forth the commitment necessary to bring about that change. It's somewhat like the story of the chicken and the pig which you have heard before I'm sure, but which bears repeating.

(Illustration of chicken and pig and total commitment)

A chicken and a pig were walking past a church one Sunday. The chicken said to the pig, "Over the years those people in there have been good to us. I think we ought to do something nice for them." "Good idea," said the pig, "What do you have in mind?" "I think we ought to have a big banquet," the chicken answered. "I'm all for that," said the pig. "But what will we serve them to eat?" "Bacon and eggs," said the chicken. "Not on your life!" said the pig. "For you that's just a contribution, For me it's a total commitment."

How committed are we? Are we preparing to be totally committed?

(Illustration of Teddy Stallard, & school teacher Miss Thompson)

Miss Thompson was a school teacher who was very conscientious and tried to treat all of her students the same. But there was one little boy ~~ix~~ who was difficult for even her to like. He wasn't an attractive child, his schoolwork was horrendous, and his attitude wasn't much better. His name was Teddy Stallard and he didn't seem to be interested in school. Miss Thompson felt a great deal of resentment toward Teddy. She almost enjoyed giving him "F's" There was something about him that rubbed her the wrong way.

She knew his background. His school records indicated that in the first grade he showed some promise, but he had problems atvhome. In the second grade his mother fell ~~xxx~~ seriously ill and Teddy started falling behind. In the third grade Teddy's mother died. Teddy was tabbed as a slow learner. In the fourth grade he was far behind. His teacher's knew that his father had no interest in Teddy's progress. Miss Thompson knew Teddy's situation but there was just something about him that she resented.



Christmas time came and the boys and girls in Miss Thompson's class brought her some gifts. To her surprise among those gifts was a crudely wrapped present from Teddy. Opening it in front of the other children she discovered a gaudy rhinestone bracelet, with half the stones missing, and a bottle of cheap perfume. She saw that some of the other children were beginning to smirk and laugh at the simple gift. So Miss Thompson had the presence of mind to put on the bracelet and open the perfume and put some on her wrist which she asked the other children to smell. "Isn't this bracelet lovely?" she asked the children. "Doesn't this perfume smell lovely?" At this the children responded with "oohs" and "aahs." At the end of the school day, little Teddy came to Miss Thompson's desk and said, "Miss Thompson .... Miss Thompson, you smell just like my mother .... and the bracelet looks real pretty on you too. I'm glad you liked my presents. Miss Thompson thanked Teddy and had to turn away so he didn't see the tears in her eyes. When he was gone, she knelt by her desk and asked God to forgive her attitude toward this poor little boy. It seemed from that day on Teddy Stallard became a new pupil and Miss Thompson became a new teacher. Teddy's attitude and his grades dramatically improved. eight years later, Miss Thompson received a letter from Teddy telling her that he was graduating from High School second in his class. Four years later she received a letter telling her that he was graduating first in his class from college. Both of those letters were signed Love, Teddy Stallard. Four more years passed and Miss Thompson received a letter from Teddy informing her that he had just graduated from medical school and he was now Dr. Theodore Stallard. Also he was getting married. His father was now dead, and would Miss Thompson be willing to sit where his mother would sit for the wedding if she were still alive? He closed his letter by saying, "You are all the family I have left now," and signed it, "Love, Teddy." Miss Thompson sat proudly where Teddy's mother would have sat for that wedding. That moment of complete sensitivity and commitment many years before had earned her that right. It was at the wedding that Teddy told her the bracelet had been his mother's as well as the bottle of perfume.

How badly do you want to win in the Christian life in this world? Are you preparing for the battle each day? Are you praying more? Are you reading God's Word? Are you involved in the fun things of the church, and the spiritual things like Bible Study and Sunday School? If you are not, how can you equip yourself for the battle? It takes more than just having one piece of the "Defensive Dress" in place to fight the battles of the war we are involved in. Will you seek to be more committed starting today? God invites us to do so. Will you accept His invitation?



But this isn't what Paul was writing about. He was writing about what is called, "Imparted righteousness." This is righteousness that is shown by how we live. The Puritans were the ones to coin this phrase of imparted righteousness and they meant that it was a step by step process. It was actually a moment by moment imparting, or giving of righteous living for God.

From this we can see that the belt and the breastplate are very closely connected. It is commitment to the cause of Christ and practical living which will win the battle of life in the warfare we are involved in.

(Illustration of burro and steer)

One morning a couple of cowpunchers went out on the range to bring in a steer that had been running loose. ~~xxxxxxx~~ They took with them a shaggy little gray donkey - a burro. Now a three-year-old steer that's been running loose is a tough customer to handle. But these cowboys had a technique for handling this animal. They roped the steer and then they tied him neck and neck with the donkey and turned them loose. At first the donkey had a bad time of it. The steer threw him all over the place. He banged him against trees and rocks, and into the bushes. Time after time ~~he~~ they both went down. ~~But there was xxxxxx things which~~ But there were two differences between the animals. The steer had been running loose and wanted to remain free. But the donkey was very stubborn and it also wanted to go home. So no matter how the steer tried to throw him, every time the donkey got to his feet he moved toward the home corral. This went on and on, but after about a week the donkey showed up at the corral and with him, was the sorriest, tamest looking steer that ranch ever saw.

As we struggle with life, we may find ourselves feeling tied up real close and perhaps it seems as though we no sooner get through one problem, another one or two, or more take its place. But God knows what we are going through and He knows that as our faith grows, ~~we~~ our stubborn Christian attitude will continue to lead us home. We may be abused, and hurt, and seem like there is no end to our problems. But God will enable us to get to our feet time after time and move toward home. One day, we will stand before the throne of our Saviour and we will know that it has been worth it. But we need to be tied to Him in this life.

As you think of your personal struggle with life, whatever your problems may be, just reach out to Him and take His hand in yours, and live for Him. That is His invitation to each of us over and over again. Will you take His invitation and come to Him?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 17, 1988  
Mrs. Kitty Feder, Organist  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and Jimmy Shearer

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 526 "Faith of Our Fathers"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Eternal Father, teach us in the days  
of this year to discover the preciousness of time. Keep  
us from squandering our hours in senseless thought and  
useless activities. Help us through good books, clean  
conversation, and creative action to so number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom, and a life devoted to  
the reconciling ministry in the world; through Jesus  
Christ our Savior. Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 328 "Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "He Touched Me" (saxophone accompaniment)

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "There's A Quiet Understanding"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14B

Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Breastplate"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 268 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr.  
& Mrs. George MacKinney in honor of their 51st Wedding  
Anniversary today.

Mrs. Alma Killean will greet our members and guests at the  
door this morning.

Ushers for today are members of St. Paul's Youth Group.

Attendance last Sunday was 129 with 7 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Gamble.

Dick Dally and Marty Henry will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

> Hospitalized: Doris Zavacky in Allegheny General in Pitts.  
SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY - Finance Committee at 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY - Auditing of all treasurers books. Check schedule  
in office for your time.

THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice at 6:00 P.M.

Chancel choir will practice at 7:00 P.M.

Upcoming dates to remember:

January 24th - immediately following the service the Lay,  
Life and Work Comm. will hold a brief meet-  
ing in the Library.

> January 30th - Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Youth of  
the church. You may purchase your tickets  
from Bob Weisenstein. We also need some  
cakes donated for the dinner. Please help.

> Valentine Dinner plans are now in the works. February 13 at  
6:00 P.M. at the South Butler Firehall. Price for the  
meal is \$8.50 each with a choice of stuffed chicken breast  
or braised steak. Come join us for some fellowship and  
fun. See Ione & Bill Pflugh or Marilyn Snyder.

> For the next three weeks the choir will be on TV. This is  
part of the community church services that are taped for  
Channel 30. Each week will be the same times, but each  
service is different. Sunday at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday at  
9:00 A.M., and Thursday at 1:00 P.M.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will  
assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this  
opportunity.

Chain <sup>UNCL</sup> ~~UNCL~~ YOU 2 C - JAN. 31ST



"Defensive Dress: The Belt"  
 Scripture: Ephesians 6:14A  
 (Ilus battl Watrloo & Stand")  
 this advic P giv 2members ch Js Xp specif Ch at Eph &  
 genrly 2all 8h throuth worl  
 vss 13-14A-comand is 2stand & mean=2B plant,root firm  
 4th faith  
 As Martin Luthr=Here I stand so help me God)  
 Luthr stan of faith,but lik P sed=Stand ther4  
 uniqu strng situ prompt P 2writ as did  
 cp 2norml reactin prisnr,P do oposit  
 norml evr prisnr only seek 2B freed & P desir this 2  
 but insted Bmoan fac in prisn P tak advantg & writ  
 lettrs 2 Ch's start B4 imprisn  
 Pictur=P in Rom prisn;sinc politcl prisnr,hav gard  
 24hr day;he chain to him  
 only etrnty reveal how many thez P led 2 Xp  
 fr writgs glean P tuk optuntiy 2 spk 2them  
 As P pondr pas of Ch in Eph think how cam bout  
 members had cum fr mystry religs & in thoz religs  
 ther wer no real ansrs 2lifs probs  
 peo kep in dark & tol only few fnd it,& 2keep work2  
 ea initiat striv,but never reach goal & wen P presen  
 simpl Gospl mesag G's luv thru Js Xp,thez peo jump  
 at chanc 2Bcum folow's of Js  
 So Ch form & Bgan exer influ on Eph  
 but godles,imoral bakgr stil ther & ldrs thoz movmen  
 exer influ 2pul memb's fr nu fnd faith  
 w/this in min P realiz nu Xpians involv battl of livs  
 & battl 4ther very existenc & he recog battl B led by  
 nun othr than Satn himself  
 As reasn how fite this battl,P knu in ordr 2win Bliev  
 2B properly prep  
 1st thing 2kno U-R go 2fite agin sumth,it nothr 2  
 hav prop prep  
 So as P lk this situ thinks of his circum & fr them  
 is abl 2equip Bliev'r w/that wh neces 4 th batl  
 P litrly chain 2 Romn soldr & thez bes fite men worl  
 but in ordr 2B th bes,they had 2hav equip  
 P lks at Dres of Romn soldr & he use equip as ilus 4  
 th equip Bliev'r mus hav in sp batl face & fites agin  
 Satn & his demons in worl  
 Thus P Bgin by say=Vs 14A  
 P B gud Jew was,remem instrucs G giv Isites wen depar  
 fr Egypt as record 2nd buk Law Mose wrot=EX 12:11  
 P cud cp thoz ancient Jews gird loins w/Romn soldr  
 in front of him Bcuz ther was simlarty  
 (Expl lng robes & pul up tween legs & in2 girdl/belt  
 Romn tunic sq cloth holes 4hed,arms & leathr belt

P use this ilus 2get Bliev'r 2hav loins gird bout 2/  
 w/truth  
 Now wat did he mean?  
 P was talk bout leathr belt Romn soldr wor rnd waist  
 belt serv 2keep tunic pul in,but also pc equip fr  
 wh hung scabard 4sword  
 P 2 mean belt was truth,but suport truth  
 w 2 covr subj bout content of truth nothr mesag  
 Wat P spk bout is atitud of truth  
 Wen belt on soldr,& tunic tuk in2 belt,soldr in ati-  
 tud of redines  
 He prep at that pt 2engag in batl  
 Th truth P talk bout here is=Comitment  
 How comit we R reveal truth bout us  
 2B comit mean 2B not only prep,but 2B preping  
 that wat seprat tru Bliev'r fr thoz jus go thru th  
 motins  
 (eampl sp persn Byon us,& slurs,remarks mak Bucz we  
 recogniz suprior spirituality ovr us & wud lik 2B  
 lik them)  
 But analys & C we R unwill 2mak neces ~~xxxxx~~ comit 2  
 bring bout that chang & sumwat lik story chkn/pig  
 (Ilus chkn/pig & total comitment)  
 How comitted R we? R we prepar 2B totly comited?  
 (Ilus Teddy Stallard & teacher Miss Thompson)  
 How badly do U want 2win in th Xpian lif in this worl  
 R U prep 4th battl ea day?  
 R U praying mor?  
 R U reading ~~2x~~ God's Word?  
 R U involv in th fun things of th ch,& th sp  
 things lik Sunday School & Bibl Study?  
 If U R not, how can U equip Urself 4th battl?  
 It taks mor than jus hav a pc of Defensiv Dres in  
 plac 2fite th batls of th war we R involv in  
 Wil U seek 2B mor comit start 2day?  
 G invits us 2do so  
 Wil U acpt His invitatin?



(Ilus Battl Watrloo & Stand)

vss 13-14A=Stand

(Ilus Martin Luthr=Here I Stan,so help me

P prsn & Ch Eph at war

vs 14A

12:11

(expl robes & gird up)

(Ilus chicken & pig)

(Ilus Teddy Stallard & teachr Miss Thomps)

## "Defensive Dress: The Breastplate"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14B

(Illustration of couple at lumber yard, "We want them for a long time")  
A couple who were not too bright went to a lumberyard to buy some 2x4's. The man at the yard said, "We don't have 2x4's but we have some 4x2's." The husband said, "I'll have to talk to my wife." He went out to the truck and talked to her, came back and said, "We can use 4x2's, we want 300 of them." The man then asked, "How long do you want them?" The husband again said, "I'll have to talk to my wife." He went out to the truck and came back and said, "We want them for a long time, we're building a house with them."

God gives each person a life to be lived and ~~for the most part~~ people live for a fairly long time. God desires that during the time we live we use our lives for His Glory. But life is such that we soon know that we are involved in a constant struggle to merely survive. But our Creator never wanted this to ~~happen~~ happen. His creation was perfect and good and was meant to remain that way. But man sinned and turned from God and this caused the separation from God and the constant warfare man faces each day of his life. But God had a plan that man could be restored to ~~himself~~ Himself through Jesus Christ. And when man has that relationship with God through Christ, he needs something beyond just that relationship and that is the purpose of the church of Jesus Christ. The church affords each believer the opportunity to have a place where he can be with other believers and together they can live and grow in the faith.

This is exactly what the Apostle Paul was thinking about ~~when he was chained~~ in his dismal jail cell chained to a Roman soldier. He couldn't help but notice the uniform of these fighting men Rome provided. Each piece had a special and unique purpose. So Paul pictured each of those pieces of the uniform as something each believer should possess in the warfare against Satan and the forces of evil in the world. So Paul admonishes the young church at Ephesus to put on the "Defensive Dress" for this continual battle. In conversation and observation, Paul learned the use of each part and how the soldier donned his uniform piece by piece.

So it is that we read in this 6th chapter of Ephesians of these pieces of spiritual armor, but also the progression used in putting them on. The Roman soldier first put on his belt. When the belt was pulled up tight or snug, the soldier was ready for battle. When he loosened it, he was off duty. We spoke last week of Paul telling the believer to have his loins girded with the belt of "Truth." And the truth Paul was talking about was actually the attitude of truth, or commitment to Christ. Next, the Roman soldier placed on the "Breastplate." This was a piece of armor, made in one piece which extended from the shoulders down to the thighs. The belt also held the Breastplate in place. Paul saw the Breastplate as representing ~~the~~ righteousness. There are several reasons for this. The Jews believed that two parts



of the body were very vulnerable. These were the heart and the bowels. To the Jew the heart symbolically represented the mind. This is why Jesus spoke to the people about the heart and evil thoughts coming from it. The Jew believed that the bowels were the seat of feelings and emotions. Scripture speaks of "Bowels of mercy," in several places. So it is only natural to look at the most vulnerable parts of the body and seek to protect them. Satan attacks the believer in two vital areas, his thinking and his emotions. He wants to feed our minds and our emotions false information. He does ~~with~~ this with false doctrine, lies, and religious untruth. He wants us to desire that which is evil and wrong and he makes it look attractive and desirable. This is the problem within the church today just as it was the problem then, But the difference is that it is multiplied many times over because we have advanced so much more academically.

(Illustration of little Joe & teacher not smart enough to teach him again, plus intellectual snobbery against Christianity)

From this we can see how Satan has lulled the intellectual community into believing that belief in God is a detriment to education. So it is that Paul sees the Breastplate as protection of the vital areas and he calls the Breastplate the piece of armor that is righteousness.

~~xxxxxxxx~~

Just what is Paul trying to say here?

(Illustration of Rev. Gomes & his commencement from college)

Rev. Gomes says of his graduation day, "I remember when I got my diploma several years ago -- it was an exciting day, with all the processions, the ceremony, the talks by the speakers who told us about our responsibility to save the world. I remember after I got my diploma in hand, as the crowd began to disperse and I looked around me past the stadium to the city beyond and then began to think of the world that lay beyond this city. I looked at my diploma again, then back at the city and the world and as I turned again to the diploma, from out of nowhere, those famous words of Tallulah Bankhead suddenly came into my mind, "Truly there is less here than meets the eye."

Righteousness is one of those things for which we could say, "Truly there is less here than meets the eye." When we try to define righteousness we find it very difficult. That is ~~large~~ largely due to the fact that in order to see all of it we need to try to see it from God's perspective.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

The very first element of living the Christian life is to seek God's righteousness FIRST. Not second, or third, but FIRST. Now what is that righteousness? There is first of all what is called, "Imputed righteousness." This is the righteousness which is given, that's what imputed means. It is handed over to another. This is the righteousness that every believer receives from and through Jesus Christ. It is not righteousness that is earned, or deserved. It is righteousness that is ours through Christ alone. When we receive Him as our Saviour, then we have His imputed righteousness in our lives.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 24, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Meron Hewis  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 528 "God of Grace and God of Glory"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Forgive us for our sins against ourselves; the bitterness of spirit which we have suffered to rob us of peace of mind; the aimlessness which has led us in different directions, and our blindness which has closed our eyes to the glory of life. Forgive us, Our Father, for our sins against thee: our contentment with ourselves and disregard of thy better ways; our refusals of thy call, and wilfull disobedience to the heavenly visions given us; and the timidity which holds us back from seeking thee and finding thee. Teach us to hate our sins as thou hatest them, and to love righteousness as thou lovest us; and help us henceforth to walk uprightly before thee in the power of thy Spirit. Amen.

\*Kyrle  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria patri  
Hymn No. 51 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology  
Anthem: "Come, Christians Join To Sing"  
Scripture: Ephesians 6:15  
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Shoes"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 595 "Lead On, O King Eternal"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benedic\*

\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki in memory of Loved Ones.  
Mrs. Gladys Fair will greet the congregation and our guests at the door this morning.  
Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, Don Kingsley, Dick Dally, and George Pflugh.  
Attendance last Sunday was 123 with 9 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Michelle Henry.  
Marie Henry, Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the hospital this week. *Bill Thompson*  
Hospitalized: Doris Zavacky in Allegheny General Hosp.  
Charlie Penar in Butler

SUNDAY - Youth group at 7:00  
Immediately following the service today there will be a brief Lay, Life & Work Comm. meeting.

THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice at 6:00 P.M.  
Chancel choir practice at 7:00

SATURDAY - Orchestra practice at 10:30 A.M.

> VALENTINE DINNER - will be held on February 13th at 6:00 P.M. at the South Butler Firehall. Choice of dinner is stuffed chicken breasts, or braised steak. Price is \$8.50 per person. Please make your reservation through Marilyn Snyder or Bill & Ione Pflugh. Deadline is February 4th.

> The Choir will be on TV again this week. Beginning Sunday at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 P.M. This is on Channel 30. They will again be on TV the following week at the same times.

> SPAGHETTI DINNER that the Youth are sponsoring is being held on January 30th from 4 to 7 P.M. Tickets are now available through Bob & Mary Jane. Please come join and support the Youth on this project. By the way they are still in need of a few cakes for dessert. Invite any and all of your relatives, friends, and neighbors. Price is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.00 children 8 and under. The Youth are also collecting Newspapers for recycling. Please keep yours and bring them into church with you on Sundays and put them in the coat room, and we will take care of them. Thanks for all your support!

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



"Defensive Dress: The Shoes"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:15  
(Ilus futur minstrs & Bliefs Aug 1961)  
Remem, that bak 1961 & sinc then librl think/teach  
us increas tremen

In Eng in 73, Eng clergy sed US widB lik them 25yrs  
bout 15yr gonby & can0 this in US 2day  
(Ilus Xpian writr bout apostat body no-cum bak fundy)  
All this shud pt us 2sobr fac we involv warfar P sed  
wud cum upn th ch

We hav seen unparalel swing 2lef of mainlin Prot ~~xx~~  
denoms & th ridicul of any clergy/cong who stan on  
fundys of faith

Wen Js pr/teach 2mults in 2nd yr of minstry, lnce taut  
fr boat; tol them parbl of sowr-Mt 13:18-19

Wat Js say=simply wen persn Bcum Blievr, opn lif 2  
Satr Bcu persn turn fr B worly individ, 2Bcum sp  
persn & Satn no let hapn w/out fite

He try evry conceivbl way 2turn persn fr G & th  
things of G & pul persn if posibl fr B folow Js Xp

Hapn no only idivid livs, but gongs/denoms as wel  
We find espec tru wen persn nu Blievr, bab in Xp

This wat P talk bout wen writ Ch Eph & say=4:14

Wen Blievr jus chil in faith, Satn sen flud fals doct  
his way & toss 2 & fro 2confus & bary away fr truth

2let all Blivr kno batl engag in P writ=6:12

Need 2kno no matr how lng liv, whthr nu/bin lng in  
faith=We R wrestl, or fite 4our sp livs

~~In~~ it no Bcum easier, in fac, get wors mos of tim  
That why P say=Need Whol Armr of G

Pr hav sed Xpian need put on Belt Truth, & Brplate  
or ritusnes, P now say=vs 15

P saw shoes worn by Romn gards; mad thik lethr & held  
on feet by thik lethr straps

On sole=pcs metal made hobnail lik futbol shoes  
cleats mak posibl dig in & no slip/slide

I saw thez soldiers redy 4batl & so say=vs 15

But wat was Blievr 2B prep 4?

P say=vs 15B

ther thoz vu pasag as coman 2go & preach Gospl

But that incorec this pt

Notic P no say anyth bout mov rnd

ther no coman 2go

his directins fnd in prev vss=vs 13C; 14a

Th coman is 2Stand & this no mean 2mov out

Insted, mean 2stan, or B redy 2mov out w/Gospl; 2B prep  
4watevr event is 2cum

(Ilus Xpian Hertr & lady giv out chickn)

This was womn knu positin & wasnt bout 2B intimidatd  
by anyl

Do U kno ur positin?

R U standing firm wher G wants U 2B & 2stand?

R U prep 2mov out in His name?

Th Blievr is 2B prep P say w/Gospl of Peace

& jus wat duz this mean?

Simpl state it is Gospl Js Xp

man w/his sepratin fr G Bcu of sin, was reconcil 2 G  
thru th shed blud of Js Xp & Bcu of Js shedding His  
blud He pd pric neces 2mak peac w/God

Th Gospl of peac is simply fac that war tween G &  
man is end wen presn cum 2th sav knowledg & acceptanc  
of Xp as L & Sav

(Ilus skul teachr tutor boy supos 2dy fr burns)

But this is exaclly wat G did

He step in2 dy worl 2restor peac wh bin brokn by th  
warfar of sin

He did exaclly ~~oposit~~ oposit of wat expec  
& so it incumbant on thoz who hav receiv that peac

2B prep 2shar it w/worl in wh we liv

We R 2stan w/belton, bresplate protec us fr blows of  
Satr wh wud wnd us severly & we 2hav propr shoes on

redy 2mov out 4th Lord

Th victry is availb 4 our livs

But it Bcum quest whethr U want 2win

R U dres 4th batl w/comitment?

R U seek 2liv holy lif?

R Ur feet rootd & grnded in G & things of G?

If not, now is tim 2prep

G is invit us 2get prep now, 2day.

Redbuk-Aug 61 futur minstrs & Bliefs  
56% rejec Virgn birth Js Xp  
71% rejec ther lif aftr deth  
54% rejec bodly resurectin Js Xp  
98% rejec persnl return Js Xp on erth

Xrian writr wrot:

Chistry has show that lnce a skul or ch  
compromises its positin & sels short th  
fundmentl doctrins of th Word that ther  
is no chanc of ther go bak 2retriev that  
wh they originly adherd to.  
Not in 1 instanc has ther bin an apostat  
body that has return 2 fundamentalism.

Mt 13:18-19

Eph 4:14

6:12A

(Ilus Christian Herter at barbeque/chickn

(Ilus teachr tutr boy 2dy fr burns)



## "Defensive Dress: The Shoes"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:15

(Illustration of future ministers and beliefs)

One of the first exposures of the beliefs of our future ministers was made by Redbook magazine in August of 1961. The publishers hired one of the top pollsters in the nation to survey a full representation of our seminaries which are supposedly preparing men for Christian service in the Protestant churches. Here are some of the results:

Of the ministers in training:

56% rejected the virgin birth of Jesus Christ

71% rejected that there was life after death

54% rejected the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ

98% rejected that there would be a personal return of Jesus Christ on this earth.

Remember, that was back in 1961. Since then the liberal thinking and teaching has increased tremendously. When I was in England in 1973 the English clergy were predicting that in about 25 years the churches in America would be as empty and pitiful as theirs. About 15 years have gone by and we can readily see and read of this in our nation today. A Christian writer speaking of the plight of our American church scene tells us:

"History has shown that once a school or church compromises its position and sells short the fundamental doctrines of the Word that there is no chance of their going back to retrieve that which they originally adhered to. Not in one instance has there been an apostate body that has returned to fundamentalism."

All of this should point us to the sobering fact that we are indeed involved in the warfare Paul so readily said would come upon the church. We have seen an unparalleled swing to the left of the Mainline Protestant denominations and the ridiculing of any clergy or congregation who continues to stand on the fundamentals of the faith.

When Jesus was preaching and teaching to the multitudes in the 2nd year of His ministry, He once taught them from a boat. It was then that He told them a parable of the sower. Matthew records this parable and then he tells of the interpretation of that parable and in the 13th chapter of Matthew in the 18th verse we read: "Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower." And the 19th verse begins, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside."

What Jesus was saying is simply that when a person becomes a believer, he opens his life to Satan because that person has turned from being a worldly individual, to becoming a spiritual one and Satan cannot let that happen. So Satan tries in any conceivable way to turn that person from God and the things of God, and pulls the person if possible from being a follower of Jesus Christ. It happens not only in individuals lives, but in congregations and denominations as well. We find this especially true when the person is just a new believer, or a babe in Christ. That is what Paul was talking about when he wrote to the church at Ephesus as recorded in the 4th chapter, the



14th verse, (read this verse). When a believer is just a child in the faith, Satan sends a flood of false doctrine his way to toss him to and fro, to confuse him and carry him away from the truth.

To let all believers know the battle we are engaged in, he wrote in the 6th chapter of this letter, in the 12th verse, "For we wrestle," We need to know that no matter how long we live, whether we are new Christians or have been long in the faith, we are wrestling, or fighting for our very spiritual lives. It just doesn't become easier. In fact, it gets worse most of the time. That is why Paul says we need the "whole armor" of God.

After having said that the Christian needs to put on the Belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness, Paul says we are to have our "Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace."

Paul saw the shoes worn by his Roman guards. They were made of thick leather and were held on the soldier's feet by leather straps. But they were more than just leather. On the soles were pieces of metal which protruded from the sole. They were similar to football shoes in that they had what could be called "cleats" to dig in on certain types of terrain. They kept the feet of the soldier from slipping when engaged in battle. Paul saw from this that the soldier was adequately prepared for battle. So he says, "With your feet shod with the preparation."

But what was the believer to be prepared for? Paul's reason for having on proper shoes is for the "Preparation of the Gospel of peace."

There are those who view this passage as a command to go and preach the Gospel. But that is incorrect at this point. Notice that Paul says nothing about moving around. There is no command to "go." His directions are to be found in previous verses. In the 13th verse he says, "And having done all to stand." In the 14th verse he says, "Stand therefore." So the command is still, "To stand." This doesn't mean that the believer is not to move out. Instead, it means he is to "Stand" or be ready to move out with the Gospel. To be prepared in other words.

(Illustration of Christian Herter and chicken at barbeque)

Christain Herter former Secreatary of State was running for reelection as Governor of Massachusetts. He arrived late at a barbeque. ~~Maxxxx~~ He'd had no breakfast or lunch and he was famished. As he moved down the serving line he received one piece of chicken. He said to the serving lady, "Excuse me, do you mind if I have another piece of chicken, I'm ver hungry." The woman replied, "Sorry, I'm supposed to give one piece to each person." He repeated, "But I'm starved," and again she said: "Only one piece to a customer."

At this, Mr. Herter who was normally a modest man, decided this was the time to pull a little rank. So he said, "Madam, do you know who I am? I'm the governor of this state."

She answered, "And do you know who I am? I'm the lady in charge of chicken. Move along buster."

This was a woman who knew her position and wasn't about to be intimidated by anyone. Do we know our position? Are we standing firm where God wants us to stand? Are we prepared to move out in His name?



The believer is to be prepared Paul is saying with the Gospel of peace. And just what does that mean? Simply stated it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ Man with his separation from God because of sin, was reconciled to God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and because of Jesus shedding His blood, He paid the price necessary to make peace with God. The Gospel of Peace is simply the fact that the war between man and God is ended when ~~xx~~ a person comes to the saving knowledge and acceptance of Christ as Lord and Saviour.

(Illustration of school teacher tutoring a boy scheduled to die of his burns) Several years ago a school teacher ~~received~~ assigned to visit children in a large city hospital on a regular basis to tutor them during their illnesses, received a routine call ~~from~~ to visit a certain boy. The teacher on the other end of the line said, "We're studying nouns and adverbs and I'd be grateful if you would help him with his homework so he doesn't fall behind the others." She wrote down the boy's name and room number, but it wasn't until the teacher was outside of the boy's room that she discovered it was located in the burn unit of the hospital. No one had prepared her to find a young boy horribly burned and in great pain. But she felt she couldn't just turn and walk out so she awkwardly stammered, "I'm the hospital teacher, and your teacher sent me to help you with nouns and adverbs!" The next morning the nurse on the burn unit asked her, "What did you do to that boy?" Before she could finish making apologies because she thought she had done something wrong, the nurse interrupted her and said, "You don't understand. We've been very worried about him, but ever since you've been here yesterday his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment ... it's as though he's decided to live." The boy later explained that he had given up hope until he saw that teacher. It all changed when he came to a simple conclusion. With joyful tears, he expressed it this way: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work ~~with~~ on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

But that is exactly what God did. He stepped into a dying world to restore the peace that had been broken by the warfare of sin. He did exactly the opposite of what was expected. And so it is incumbent upon us who have received that peace, to be prepared to share it in the world where we live. We are to stand, with out belt on, our breastplate protecting us from the blows of Satan which could wound us severely; and we are to have the proper shoes on ready to move out for the Lord.

The victory is available for our lives. But it becomes a question of whether you want to win. Are you dressed for the battle with commitment? Are you seeking to live a holy life? Are your feet firmly rooted and grounded in God and the things of God? If not, now is the time to prepare. God is inviting us to get prepared now, today.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 31, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and Jimmy Shearer  
+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. + + + + +

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 336 "O Worship the King"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, now that we have seen  
and known the manifestation of your Son and our Lord, we  
pray that it may become evident in our lives. Refute  
the prejudice that makes us hate others; upset the  
selfishness that blinds us to the debt we owe our  
fellowman; disturb the complacency that keeps us from  
your service; and cleanse us from all that would offend  
you. We pray all this in the name of our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 56 "God Will Take Care of You"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory "Jesus Loves Me" by the Youth Orchestra under  
the direction of Rol Thompson  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "A Mighty River"  
Scripture: Ephesians 6:16  
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Shield"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 71 "Faith Is the Victory"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Henry in memory of Loved Ones.  
Mrs. Zitt Thompson will greet our members and guests at  
the door this morning.  
Ushers for today are Marge Smiley, Deb Melton, Genny  
Nohach and Lucille Tack.  
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 16 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Gamble.  
Shirley Thompson and Marge Smiley will be visiting the  
hospital this week.  
Hospitalized: Mrs. Ellen Schildroth in BMH  
Bill Thompson. in Allegheny Gen. in Pitts.  
MONDAY - Benevolence Committee will meet at 7:00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY - Church Council meeting at 7:00  
THURSDAY - 6:00 P.M. Youth Choir practice  
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir practice  
SATURDAY - 10:30 a.m. Orchestra practice  
UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:  
Feb. 8th - Activities Committee meeting at 6:30  
9th - Sunday School teachers tureen at 6:00 P.M.  
at Marge Smiley's home.  
11th - VBS Preview workshop in Rehoboth Hall 9:30 a.m.  
Moody Bible Conference is open to any men of the church.  
If you would be interested in going, please stop in the  
office. Application to be in by the end of February.  
Today is the last day to make nominations for Elders and  
Deacons. Please list the name on the paper provided in  
the back of the pews and drop in the offering plate.  
Valentine Dinner is being held on February 13th, 6:30 at  
So. Butler Firehall. It is not too late to turn in your  
reservation. Dinner is \$8.50 each with a choice of  
braised steak or stuffed chicken breast. See Bill &  
Ione Pflugh or Marilyn Snyder. Join us for some fun.  
February 18th is Youth Night at the Butler Area Laymen's  
Dinner. The dinner will be held here at the church.  
Price is \$4.00, tickets may be purchased from Jake  
Harmon.  
Congregational Dinner will be held on February 7th at  
5:30 P.M. We urge each one of you to attend and support  
the programs and functions of your church. This is  
under the planning of the Lay, Life & Work Committee.  
Please bring a tureen, table service, and a friend.  
Beverage and dessert will be provided as well as the meat.  
We look forward to seeing each of you there!  
Remember to save your newspapers and bring them into the  
church for the Youth.



Scripture: Ephesians 6:16  
 (Ilus hi skul student & refus rejectin notie)  
 Now if that letr wer actuly writn, I wondr wat hapn  
 we yng man apear redy 4clas on Sept 18  
 certnly sho inventiv mind & desir 2succeed  
 Alex Dumas Sr. writ=Nothin succeed lik success  
 wth that statmen ly in fac lnce suces achiev furth  
 successes folo  
 This especil tru of Romn Empire  
 Romn army was sucesful, mity, military machin at time P  
 wh had conqur any & all who stud in ther path  
 Nowher do read in NT but P mus hav admir Romn soldrs  
 cum in2 contac with  
 Here wer men who disciplin evry way  
 they had2 remain tiptop fite conditn at all time  
 Ther daily regimen consis of exercis/diet=helthful  
 foods & preparadnes 2meet any conditin/situ encounter  
 Naturly, P abl observ thez soldrs 1st hand since he  
 chain 2at least 1 of them at all time  
 He abl note uniform & this wat writ 2th Ch in Eph  
 about in this 6th chap  
 He depic Defensiv Dres of Romn soldr as sumth Xpian  
 soldr shud wear  
 th dif B that Xpian defensiv dres 2B used 2fite th  
 warfare agin Satn & his forces  
 We hav lk at Belt; Brestplat & Shoes, Now P writew:  
 Vs 16a=Thoz word dont mean this nex pc armr mor import  
 than any othr  
 Thez word simply introduce finl 3pcs armr  
 Notic how P divid thez 6pc armr  
 ea of 1st 3 conec w/an AND-read vss 14-15  
 S hav identfy thez pes, he redy 2mov 2las pcs 7 writ=  
 Vs 16=perhap of all armr of Romn soldr this is 1 P ma  
 hav nevr seen, but had ask bout  
 ther actual 2shields they use=1rnd shield lik giant  
 frisby  
 it use by soldr 2pary blows of enmy whil in turn  
 try 2get at him w/short sword hand 2 hand  
 Shield P writ bout was lrg woodn shield 4%L & 2%W  
 it covr outsid w/lethr metal or lethr  
 outr covr vry thik & purpos 2deflec arrow of enmy  
 if metal was polish & shon in sun; if lethr treat  
 w/oil 2exting any flam arrow shot at it  
 Wen Romn army fot had specil stratgy 4major battl  
 lng line soldr who cary thez shield wud go front of  
 all army  
 Bhin wudB soldrs w/bows/arrows, & swords  
 as army advanc soldrs in front wud plac shields side  
 by side great lrg wal of protectin  
 archrs Bhin wud shoot arrows & army advanc inch/ly

wen got clos enur, hand-2-hand combat tak plac 2/  
 Soldrs w/lrg woodn shields wer very import  
 wen got 2pt cud no advanc furthr, wud plant shields  
 in grnd & army had wal of protectin until cud mov  
 agin  
 both sides wud coat arrows w/pitch & ignit & shoot  
 pitch hit clothing/shield & splattr & set fires  
 Th wat P talk bout wen say-vs 16C  
 Jus lik Romn soldr if shield coat w/lethr & oil, fire  
 wud bounce off harmlesly  
 So agin, P sed we shudB prep 4any devid Satn may use  
 2ovrcum us  
 Ther lsmal prob tween Eng/Greek text in sum versins  
 KJV no say=Evil one & shud BcuZ P spk of Satn  
 BcuZ Satn is th l lead atak agin Xpians & our shield  
 need 2B such that we can w/stan onslaut  
 But wat is it we use 2w/stan onslaut?  
 P says=Th shield of faith & that faith is wh ovrcum  
 all opositin; it faith wh stan regardles how insurmtbl  
 odds mayB; it faith that inspir persn 2keep on in spite  
 all else; & it faith that may cal upon us 2stan alon  
 in midst of doubts  
 (Ilus womn listn F's voice)  
 Here exampl faith in midst sever doubt  
 How many us wud do sumth so foolish, go 2 stor w/out  
 mony & expec G ansr our faith?  
 How many in 1st plac wud admit 2hear G spk, tel us  
 sumthin?  
 How many us wud hav wheel carts up 2countr & wait  
 an hour BcuZ G sed so?  
 But this wat faith aculy is=Faith ask us 2acpt wat  
 we cannot C or undrstand  
 u, this ilus is not exampl of stan agin wiles of ~~the~~  
 devil  
 But it gud exampl of B made 2lk foolish in our enli  
 lightn society  
 & that exacly wat P get at in this Scrip  
 He says=STAND & he ment 2 stand or 2hold on evn wen  
 things R not rite; evn wen circumstances & situatins  
 R not exacly wat U lik or want  
 2stand firm, unmoving fr wat U Bliev/or stan on  
 In 1 Cor 15:58-P say=(Read)  
 B Stedfast - STAND - Read vs 16  
 Regardles circumstancwhethr all Ur frends desert U  
 or evry 1 turn fr U,  
 STAND. STAND. STAND.  
 Js sed- Io I am with you always even unto the end  
 of the world

A hi skul senior wrot lettr 2coleg he  
wanted 2atend aftr receiv rejectin not-  
ice fr them. He wrote:

Dear Admissions Officer,  
I am in receipt of Ur rejectin notic of  
my aplicatin. As much as I wud like 2  
comdat U, I find I cannot accept it.  
I hav alrady receivd 4rejectin notices  
fr othr coleges & this numbr is, in fac  
ovr my limit. Ther4, I mus rejec Ur  
rejectin, & wil apear 4classes on Sept  
18.

Vs 16A=Abuv all

(Ilus lady & F&s voice)

1 Cor 15:58



## "Defensive Dress: The Shield"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:16

(Illustration of high school senior refusing rejection notice)

A high school senior wrote a letter to a college he wanted to attend, after he had received a rejection notice from it. He wrote:

"Dear Admissions Officer,

I am in receipt of your rejection of my application. As much as I would like to ~~accommodate~~ accommodate you, I find I cannot accept it. I have already received four rejection notices from other colleges, and this number is, in fact, over my limit. Therefore, I must reject your rejection, and will appear for classes on September 18."

Now if that letter was actually written, I wonder what happened when that young man appeared ready for classes on September 18. It certainly shows an inventive mind and the desire to succeed. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Alexander Dumas Sr. wrote, "Nothing succeeds like success." The truth of ~~xx~~ that statement lies in the fact that once success is achieved, further successes follow. This was especially true of the Roman Empire. The Roman Army was a successful mighty military machine at the time of Paul which had conquered any and all who stood in their path. No where in the New Testament do we read it, but Paul must have marveled, and perhaps secretly admired the Roman soldiers he came in contact with. Here were men who were disciplined in every respect. They had to remain in tip top fighting condition at all times. Their daily regimen consisted of exercise, healthful foods and a preparedness to meet any condition or situation they encountered. ~~This is~~

Naturally, Paul was able to observe these soldiers firsthand since he was constantly chained to at least one of them. He was able to note their uniforms and this is what he was writing to the church in Ephesus about in this sixth chapter of his letter. He depicts the Defensive Dress of the Roman soldier as something the Christian soldier should wear. The difference being that the Christian's Defensive Dress is to be used to fight the warfare ~~of~~ against Satan and his forces.

We have looked at the Belt, the Breastplate, and the Shoes. Now Paul writes, "Above all," as he begins this 16th verse. Those words do not mean that this next piece of armor is of more importance than any other. These words simply introduce the final three pieces of armor. Notice how Paul divides these six pieces of armor. Each of the first three are connected with an "And." Starting in the 14th verse he writes, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, AND having on the breastplate of righteousness; AND your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

Having identified these pieces of armor he is ready to move on to the last few pieces and so he writes, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, where-with ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Perhaps of all the armor of the Roman soldier, this is one which Paul may not have seen in evidence with his guards. There were actually two shields which the Roman soldiers used. One was a small round shield much like a giant



frisbee. It was used by the soldier to parry the blows of an enemy while he in turn tried to get at his opponent with a short sword in hand to hand combat.

But the shield Paul was writing about was a large wooden shield which was four-and-a-half feet long, by two-and-a-half feet wide. It was covered on the outside with either metal or leather. This outer covering was very thick. Its purpose was to deflect the arrows of the enemy. If it was a metal covered shield it was polished so it shone in the sun and could distract the enemy. If it was leather, it was treated with oil to extinguish any flaming arrows shot at it.

When the Roman army fought they had a special strategy for a major battle. A long line of soldiers who carried these shields would go in front of all of the army. Behind them would be the soldiers with bows and arrows, and swords. As the army advanced, the soldiers in front would place their shields side by side, creating a large wall of protection. The archers behind would fire their arrows. It was in this manner that the army would advance inch by inch. When they got close enough to the enemy the hand-to-hand combat would take place. The soldiers with the large wooden spears were very important. When they got to the point where they couldn't advance any further, the shields were planted firmly in the ground and the army had a semblance of protection until they could make whatever moves necessary to move forward again.

Both sides would coat their arrows with pitch, ignite the pitch and then shoot them at each other. When the arrows struck another soldier, or wood, the pitch would splatter causing little fires to start on the clothing, or whatever. This is what Paul was talking about when he said to take the shield of faith, "Wherewith ye shall be able to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked."

Just like the Roman soldier, if the shield is coated with metal, which fire cannot burn, or if it is covered with leather and then oiled, the fire will bounce off from it harmlessly. So again, Paul is saying that we should be prepared for any device Satan may use to overcome us.

There is one small problem between the English and the Greek texts which some versions such as the King James Version doesn't pickup on. The verse should read, "All the fiery darts of the wicked ONE." Paul is actually referring to Satan. He is the one leading the attack against Christians and our shields need to be such that we can withstand his onslaught.

What is it that we are to use to withstand Satan's onslaught? Paul tells us it is, "The shield of faith." That "Faith" Paul is talking of here is the faith that overcomes all opposition. It is faith that stands regardless how insurmountable the odds may be. It is faith that inspires a person to keep on in spite of all else. It is a faith that may call upon us to stand alone, in the midst of doubts,



(Illustration of faith of woman listening to "Her Father's voice")

A missionary, Lisa Groves in Brazil tells of an unusual situation that she knew firsthand. A widow with 4 children came to the point where she only had the equivalent of twenty-cents in her purse. If she used it to buy bread, the children would go without milk. And if she used it to buy milk the children would go without bread. So she didn't know what to do and she decided to pray. She prayed for two hours and finally God spoke to her and told her to go to this huge supermarket that had 124 checkout counters. He told her to buy all of the groceries she would need for 3 months and then to go to checkout counter number 7. She went to the super market and filled three shopping carts with groceries and then pushed them to checkout number 7. When she arrived there the cashier was going to lunch and she shutdown the cash register. The other cashiers waved her over to their counters, but she told them, "My Father told me to go through number 7."

That widow who heard God's voice, trusted Him, and waited at that checkout counter for one hour, with three grocery carts full of groceries, and 20 cents in her purse. The cashier came back from lunch and ~~opened the~~ was astonished to see the woman still there. She opened the counter and began to check her out. As the cashier was coming to the last of the groceries to be rung up, ~~and~~ an announcement came over the loud speaker: "Good afternoon shoppers! Today is the seventh anniversary of our opening, and the person at checkout counter number seven gets all of her groceries ~~free~~ today, free."

Here is an example of faith in the midst of severe doubts. How many of us would do something so foolish as to go to a store without money and expect God to answer our faith? How many of us in the first place would admit to hearing God speak to us and tell us something? How many of us would have wheeled those grocery carts up to the checkout counter and waited for an hour? But this is exactly what faith is all about. Faith asks us to accept what we cannot see, or understand. True, this illustration is not an example of standing against the wiles of Satan. But it is an example of being made to look foolish in our very enlightened society. And that is exactly what Paul was getting at in this Scripture. He says, "Stand." He meant to stand or to hold fast even when things are not right; even when circumstances and situations are not exactly what you like or want; to stand firm, unmoveable. It was at a later time that Paul writing to the church in Corinth wrote those words of faith and courage as recorded in the 15th chapter of his first letter. It is there in the 58th verse that we read, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Be steadfast. Stand: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

Regardless of the circumstances, whether all your friends desert you, or every one turns from you, "Stand! Stand! Stand! Jesus said, "Lo I am with you even unto the end of the world."

STAND.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 7, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Robin Kaiser and Ray Gamble  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 306 "Lo! He Comes with Clouds  
Descending"

\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) O God, you gave us a Light for  
our lives, but too often we hide our light, which  
leaves us many times in the dark. Our lives should  
be a reflection of that Light, but instead we are  
casting shadows of doubt. Keep us from those things  
which tend to shake our faith. Help us to shine  
forth wherever we are to a world that badly needs  
The Light. Take from us all of our sin, cleanse us,  
and make us whole, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 439 "Sweet Hour of Prayer"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Infant Dedication

Anthem: "Come Down, Lord"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17a

Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Helmet"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 235 "Jesus Is Lord of All"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Thompson in memory of Loved Ones.  
The beautiful arrangement on the piano has been given in  
loving memory of Grace Riddle by her grandson.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shepeck will greet our members and friends  
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Frank  
Crawford and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 155 with 18 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Davis.

Paul Campbell and Bill Pflugh will be visiting the  
hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Bill Thompson - Allegheny General

MONDAY - Activities Committee will meet at 6:30

TUESDAY - Sunday School Teachers will meet at Marge  
Smiley's home for a tureen and meeting-6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY - VBS preview workshop in Rehoboth Hall 9:30 A.M.

Youth Choir practice at 6:00

Chancel Choir will practice at 7:00

SATURDAY - Valentine Dinner at 6:00 P.M. at the South  
Butler Firehall.

Moody Bible Conference is open to all laymen of the church  
who may be interested. Registrations and deposit must  
be in by February 14th.

February 18th is Youth Night at the Butler Area Laymen's  
Dinner. The dinner will be held here in Rehoboth Hall.  
Tickets are available through Jake Harmon, and the  
price is \$4.00 Dinner time is 6:30 P.M.

REMINDER FOR THE YOUTH: Youth Group will be held from  
2 to 4 on Sunday afternoon.

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER tonight!!! It is 5:30 P.M. Bring  
a tureen and table service and come join us for a time  
of fellowship, fun and of course a little business.

NEWSPAPERS - please continue to save them and bring them  
into the church. The Youth will take care of the  
recycling of them. Ask your friends and neighbors to  
save them also. It is a continuous project for the  
Youth, so help them out.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire.



"Defensive Dress: The Helmet"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17A

P has intro 1 by 1 individ pcs armr soldr wor  
star w/belt=commit Xpian shud hav;nex-bresplat=cover  
vitr parts;shoes-shudB sturdy;shield=ward off flam ar  
Now spk of covr 4hed=Helmet;Bcz mos vitl part body is  
he )

(Ilus man B introduc wrongly)  
contrary 2this,P introduc ea pc armr corectly & has  
now cum 2 a mos vital part body 2B protec-th hed  
Helmet mosly mad of metl,erly 1's wer lethr  
main purp was 2 protec hed,mosly fr swords thrusts  
Romns use wat cal-brodsword;it 3 to 4 ft lng & was  
held lik baseball bat w/zhans  
(Exempl Petr in gardn Geth w/Js & cut off ear)  
wen soldr wear hehmet,blows struk dwn not much use,so  
can C valu of helmet  
P say=vs 17A=many peo think P spk of B saved,acpt Xp,  
but not so  
P spk-2Blievr;no 1wud put on armr 2fite Satn who no  
Blievr  
If U fite Satn U R on G's side,U hav 2B;UR not in  
th army unles UR a Blievr  
Js sed=He that is not w/us is aginst us  
P is sharing that if UR a Blievr UR undr atak & in  
need of armr of G  
Satn dunt atak thos who R not Blievr, wat wudB th  
pt? They alrady his  
Fr wat P say here ther R sevrl issu we need deal with  
One Big issu of many Blievr is quest of B abl los Sal  
Is it posibl 2los one's salvatin?  
w/this quest we deal with aspec of Etrnl Securt  
Is 1 persn who is once savd always savd?  
2undrstan this mus undrstan salvatin  
ther R 3 aspecs 2salvatin  
1st is Past aspec4wen persn receiv Xp as Sav he recei  
4givnes of all his sins  
P write=ther is now ther4 no condemnatin 2thoz who R  
in Xp Js  
that means persns sins R blottd out  
2nd aspec is Present=present aspec giv th individ free  
dom fr th powr of sin  
we wil sin daily all our livs,evn afr cum 2 Xp  
But we hav a Sav who wil 4giv & clens us daily  
Jn writ=He is faithfl & jus 2-4giv our sins & 2clense  
us fr all unrirtusnes  
our Sav no lv us 2our own devices,He 4givs & clenses  
continuously

3rd aspec is futur=ther is cum tim wen ther wilB 2/  
no mr sin & Jn writ this in Rev=no mor deth or sin  
Salvatin had hapn-that justifeatin;it is hapn-Sanctif  
it wil hapn-that glorificatin  
Past means bin acomplish;present mean it contun & U  
can no lose;& if garntee in futur UR absolutly secure  
S' if P not talk bout salvatin, wat he say?  
Mo. Bib scholr Bliev P spk Satn & 2edg sword  
this bordsword & Satn try ovcum Blievr w/doubt,discour  
He atak our seat of reasn,our heds & discourag lik=  
U giv lot tim/money 2 G's work, wat 4? Wat hav sho 4it?  
U get pas ovr on job,U get stuk w/lousy jobs,is it  
worth it?  
then doubts lik=How U kno UR Xpian? R U sur U savd?  
lk how U act,if Xpian U wudnt do. Why worry bout sin?  
A littl bad no hurt. Is it worth it 2liv ritus lif?  
We need kno evr Blievr hav thez discour/doubts &  
Satn hurl in quest 2thro us off trak fr fol G  
But if hav Helmet sav covr heds,nuthin fals can  
cum in2 our heds  
P wrot Xpians in Gal=Do not B weary in wel doing  
Old quest aris=Do I hav to teach anothr SS class?  
Why cant I sleep in 1 Sun lik othr membs do?  
Do I hav 2prep anothr sermn? & on & on thez go & our  
only defens is 2B root & grnd in th Lord  
(Ilus girl shovel coal w/littl shovl=I wil if work lng  
& UC it isnt how lng work,but how comit we R in th wor  
Jerry Falwell sez=th measur of a man is wat it taks  
2discourag him  
Wat duz it tak 2discourag U & turn U fr G?  
Wat R th doubts UR if mak U want 2chuk it all?  
(Ilus girl in SS & yoke of G=put arms rnd our neks)  
in 1st daily battl we face G is indeed ther putting  
His arms rnd our neks & luv us in spit of ourselvs  
We hav th victry asur,ther no doubt bout that  
But as labr.strugl/fite th daily battl,we need 2star  
in strgth ours only thru Xp  
Do U hav UR armr on?  
is UR hed protec fr thrus Satns swrod?  
Claim that victry thru Xp 2day,His invitatin is=  
Cum un2 Me all ye that labr & R hvy laden,& I wil giv  
U rest  
tak Him in2 Ur lif,& liv evn in midst daily warfar U  
face

(Ilus man introduced wrongly)

Salvatin: Eternl Securty

Past - aspect

Pr ent - aspect

Future - aspect

(Ilus girl & coal pile in London)

I will, sir, If I work long enuf

Jerry Falweal:

Th measur of a man, is wat it takes to  
discourage him

(Ilus Yoke of God-it G put arms rnd our  
necks)



## "Defensive Dress: The Helmet"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17A

Paul has introduced ~~xxxxxxpissxxxxofxxxxxxxthexxx~~ one by one, the individual pieces of armor the Roman soldier wore. He started with the Belt and pointed out that it was the commitment the Christian should have. Next, was the Breastplate which covered the vital parts of the believer. Then he talked of the shoes which needed to be strong and sturdy. And then he spoke of the shield to ward off the flaming arrows shot at the believer. So it is that Paul now speaks of the covering for the head. The most vital part of the body is the head.

(Illustration of man being introduced incorrectly)

At a denominational convention ~~xxxxxxwas~~ the keynote speaker was introduced as a businessman who had made 25,000 dollars in potatoes in Maine. He arose and said, "That is only partially correct. It was not in Maine; it was in Texas. It was not in potatoes; it was in oil. It was not twenty five-thousand dollars; it was two hundred-and fifty-thousand dollars. I didn't make it; I lost it. And it wasn't me; it was my brother."

The Apostle Paul has correctly introduced each piece of the Roman soldier's armor thus far and has now come to the of the most important pieces and that is the armor that protects the head. The helmet was made mostly of metal, although at one stage they were made of leather. But the main purpose of the helmet was to protect the head from being injured, particularly with blows from the swords of the enemy. Not only the Romans, but all of the fighting forces of that time used what was known as a broadsword. This was a sword which was from three to four feet long. It was wielded much like a baseball bat, being held with two hands. A good example of how that sword was used is given in the account of the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was there you may recall that Peter took a sword and cut off a servant's ear. Most people think that Peter just whacked down at the man and cut the ear off. But not so! Peter swung that sword sideways, the man ducked, and Peter caught the ear.

When a soldier was wearing a helmet, striking downwards was of not much use. Thus it can be seen what the value of the helmet was. So it is that Paul having elaborated on the Belt, the Breastplate, the Shoes, and the Shield, now tells the believer that the next piece of armor needed was, "The helmet of salvation."

Many people who read this think that Paul is talking about a person getting saved, or accepting Christ. But this isn't so. ~~xxxxxxpossiblexthattxxxxxx~~ Paul is speaking to believers. No one would be putting on the armor to fight Satan who wasn't a believer. You're not in the army unless you are a believer. If you're fighting Satan you are on God's side, you have to be. Jesus said, "He that is not with us is against us." The issues of salvation had been spoken of by Paul and he is sharing that if you are a believer you are



under attack and in need of the armor of God. Satan doesn't attack those who are not believers. What would be the point? They are already his.

From what Paul is saying here there ~~ix~~ are several issues we need to deal with. One very large issue of many believers is the question of being able to lose salvation. Is it possible to lose one's salvation? With this question we are dealing with the aspect of eternal security. Is a person who is once saved, always saved? To understand this, we must understand salvation. There are three aspects to salvation. The first one is the past aspect. When a person receives Christ as his Savior, he receives the forgiveness of all of his sins. Paul writes, "There is therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

That means the person's sins are blotted out.

The second aspect of salvation is the present aspect. The present aspect gives the individual freedom from the power of sin. We will sin daily all of our lives even after we have come to Christ. But we have a Savior who forgives us and cleanses us daily. 1 John 1:9 tells us, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Our Savior doesn't just leave us to our own devices. He forgives and cleanses us continuously.

Then there is the future aspect of salvation. There is coming a time when there will be no more sin. John writes in the book of Revelation that a day is coming when there will be no more death, no more sin. And we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. Salvation has happened - that's justification; it is happening - that's sanctification; and it will happen-- that's glorification. The past means it has been accomplished. If it is present it is continuing and you can't lose it. And if it is guaranteed in the future you are absolutely secure.

So if Paul is not talking about ~~salvation~~ getting salvation, just what is he saying? Most Biblical scholars tell us that Paul is alluding to the sword that Satan is seeking to use on us and the word Paul uses here is for that ~~of~~ the broadsword. This sword had two edges to it and Satan tries with those two edges to overcome every believer. Those edges are discouragement and doubt.

Satan attacks us by striking at our heads, the seat of our reasoning. His attack of discouragement might be something like: "You are giving a lot of yourself both in time and money to God's work, and what for? What do you have to show for it? You get passed over at your job, somebody less qualified gets the good jobs and you get stuck with the lousy ones. Is it worth it all?"

And then he attacks with doubts like: "How do you know you're a Christian? Are you sure that you're saved? Look at the things you still do and if you were a Christian you wouldn't sin anymore. Why worry about things like sin?"



Just do your own thing. You can be as good a Christian as anybody else, a little sin never hurt anyone. Besides, is it worth it trying to live a righteous life?"

But we need to know that every believer has these same ~~xxxxxx~~ discouragements and doubts. They are hurled at us by Satan in his quest to throw us off the track from following God. But if we have our heads covered with the helmet of salvation, nothing false can come into our heads. Paul wrote to the Christians in the church in Galatia, "Do not be weary in well-doing." Our labor is not in vain. All of us grow tired and weary. The old questions arise, "Do I have to continue teaching that Sunday School class? Why can't I take a Sunday and sleep in like so many other members do? Do I have to ~~write~~ prepare another sermon? On and on those doubts come at us and our only defense is to be rooted and grounded in the Lord.

(Illustration of little girl and coal pile in London)

A story is told about a little girl many years ago who lived in London.

A coal truck came down the street and dumped a load of coal on the sidewalk in front of her house. She went to the cellar and came out the door with a little shovel. She went to the coal pile and picked up as much coal as the shovel could carry and took it into the cellar. She kept doing this all the while to the amusement of the next door neighbor. After she had carried four or five shovelfuls into the cellar, the man said, "Little girl, you'll never get all that coal in the cellar." She replied, "I will, Sir, if I work long enough."

And you see, it isn't how long we work, but how committed we are to the work. Jerry Falwell says that the measure of ~~xxxx~~ a man is what it takes to discourage him. What does it take to discourage you and pull you away from God? What are the doubts that Satan raises in your life that make you want to chuck it all?

(Illustration of little girl in Sunday School explaining the "Yoke of God")

In Sunday School a teacher read to her class the words of Jesus, "My yoke is easy." Then she asked, "Who can tell me what a yoke is?"

A boy answered, "A yoke is something they put on the necks of animals."

The teacher answered, "That's right. Now who can tell me what is the yoke God puts on us?"

A little girl answered, "It is God putting His arms around our necks."

In the midst of the daily battle each of us face, God is indeed there, putting His arms around our necks, loving us in spite of ourselves. We have the victory assured. There is no doubt about that. But as we labor and struggle and fight the daily battle we need to stand in the strength that is ours only through Christ. Do you have your armor on? Is your head protected from the thrusts of Satan's sword? Claim that victory through Christ today. His invitation is always, "Come to Me ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Take Him into your life and live even in the midst of the daily warfare you face.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 14, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Robin Kaiser and Ray Gamble

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 21 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, we confess before  
you that our lives are not what they should be. We  
do undesired sin, and we permit temptations to over-  
come us. But we know there is forgiveness with you  
when we do confess. So as we humbly seek forgive-  
ness, we ask for new strength to lead a more Godly  
life, for we pray in the name of our Master, and  
our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Children's Moment with Bob  
Hymn No. 443 "I Need Thee Every Hour"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "You're Pretty Lucky, Mr. Churchman"  
Scripture: Ephesians 6:17B  
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Sword"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 617 "Onward, Christian Soldiers"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction

\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs.  
Marge Smiley in memory of Loved Ones.  
Mrs. Betty Tressler will greet our members and guests at the  
door this morning.  
Ushers for today are: Jeanne Snyder, Jane Weichey, Judy  
Shearer and Mid Diefenderfer.

Attendance last Sunday was 104 with 18 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Bonnie Gannon.  
Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

> Hospitalized: Bill Thompson in Allegheny General and HOME  
Irene Forcht and George MacKinney in BMH.

SUNDAY - 7:00 P.M. Youth Group

> WEDNESDAY - 7:30 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service with Altar  
Communion.

- Immediately following the service the Chancel  
Choir will practice.

THURSDAY - Laymen's Dinner in Rehoboth Hall  
No Youth Choir practice this week.

Today will be the last day to turn in your registration for  
attending the Moody Bible Conference.

> Bible Study will resume again on Sunday evening at 7:00 P.M.  
We hope to see the class again.

We are looking for a few more instruments to be added to  
our orchestra. If you play an instrument please come on  
Saturday mornings at 10:30 to join us.

Daily Bread booklets are on the table in the Narth-  
ex. Please takethem and use them.

The 1987 Church Yearbooks are in the Narthex also.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire.



"Defensive Dress: The Sword"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17B  
 (Illustration yng man, termml cancr, wif 4kids, suicide)  
 This situ actul hapn & ansr pastr gav, wasnt sur how 2  
 advis him

Pastr fr/librl ch, but unfortunatly, many atend Bibl  
 B'iev ch's no kno wat 2say 2anyl fac probs lik this  
 (I s littl boy & giv G's buk bak 2 Him)  
 Is that wat any of us hav 2say bout Bibl?  
 Is it jus dus collectr aroun our hous?  
 In yr 62AD 4mēn lef Rome bnd 4provinc of Asia & ea  
 cary on his persn, persnl lettr 2B delivr at destinati:  
 Epaphroditus - bnd 4 Philippi  
 Epaphras - bnd 4 Collosse  
 Onesimus - bnd 4 Collosse & lettr 4mastr-Philemon  
 Tychicus - bnd 4 Ephesus 2 delivr lettr 2ch ther  
 Ea lettr cary by thez 4men gav valubl instrucs 2thoz v  
 who wud receiv & read them  
 lettr wh/Tychicus was 2delivr cary valubl info in th  
 lattr part wh/stat=Eph 6:10-17 - Read  
 writr this info also writr othr 3lettrs as wel  
 His nam P & he imprison in Romn jail, litrlly chain  
 2his gard

P saw clos rng-Defensiv Dres of captrs & thot of that  
 dres as contain neces armr ~~xxxx~~xth Blievr in Ch shud  
 posses

So he nam thoz pcs armr 1 by 1  
 hav gon thru that list, we now cum 2las 1 pc  
 In 2nd part vs 17 P say-Tak sword of Sp wh/is W of G  
 th 1pc Romn soldrs uniform P & all prisnrs held great  
 respec 4 was Sword

This was not pc made unirom lk nice, dressy  
 asted, was mos necessary pc & ment lif/deth  
 as resul, soldrs knu how 2use & prisnrs knu & respe  
 Sword P talk bout is short 2edg sword cary by evr Romn  
 it both offensiv & defensiv weapn, & wen drawn, soldr  
 knu wat 2do w/it

In describ sam thing P talk bout here, authr buk Heb  
 say=Heb 4:12 - READ

P say in simplr term that wen C sword Romn soldr  
 think of H Sp & how H Sp lead all Blievr in2 truth  
 & that truth is Bibl wh/is weapn lik sword=2edg

P ~~knu~~ knu valu read Scrip-evr day chain 2strngr & knu  
 lonlines of despondncy Bcuz seprat fr lov 1's  
 (Ilus old womn & help deriv fr/Scrip 4nervus tensin)  
 How many peo hav U talk 2 who say how nervus R & cant  
 get ovr it? I've herd it & so hav U

But how many wud lk at read G's Word as cure?  
 But it worth a try isnt it?

P also knu G's word wud help sp/as well 2/  
 (Ilus man thro out Gutenberg Bibl)  
 unlik this man, P knu valu of 2ibl  
 he knu G direc thoz who read it in ther daily livs  
 th 2ibl is aliv & cums aliv ~~xxx~~ 4 th/Blievr Bcuz G  
 wil spk fr/its pages by His H Sp

Li~~st~~n wat sum1 wrot bout G's Word:  
 (I s of The Bible)

Is th sword, th/Word of G th/main part Ur armr?  
 Do U hav th/armr on?  
 R U prep 2do batl w/th evil forces wh/suron us?  
 R U a soldr of Xp?

Do U kno Him as th/Lord & Savior of Ur lif?  
 How many of U wil tak Him as th/One & only One who  
 can lead us in2 & thru th/battl of life & victry?  
 U may want 2respon 2Him 2day, & I urg U 2do so, by cum  
 4ward & comit Ur lif 2Him  
 Perhaps U may want 2recomit Ur lif  
 I invit U 2respon as He leads  
 Soldiers!  
 Put Ur armr on!  
 Onward Xpian Soldrs! Let us go 4th in2 Battl 4 Him

(Supos yng man-wif, 4kids-termnl cancr  
contac U & ask bout suicide? wat say/tel?

(Is boy giv Bibl bak 2 God)

yr 62 AD & 4men bnd 4 Asia province

Epaphroditus - Philippi

Epaphras - Collosse

Onesimus - Collosse - Philemon

Tychicus - Ephesus

Eph 6:10-17

Hep 4:12

(Ilus old womn nervus tensin & Bibl)

(Ilus man thro out Gutenberg Bibl)

(Ilus The Bible)

Invitatin: 2tak Xp as One/only One 2lead  
thru battl lif & on 2 victry

Soldiers! Put Ur armr on!

Onward Xpain Soldiers!

Let us go 4th in2 battl 4 Him!







Paul saw at close range the "Defensive Dress" of his captors and he thought of that dress as containing the necessary "armor" the believer in the church should possess. So he named those pieces of "armor" one by one. Having gone through that list we now come to the last piece. In the second part of the 17th verse Paul tells the believer to take, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

The one piece of ~~Roman~~ the Roman soldiers uniform that Paul and all prisoners held a great respect was the sword. This was not a piece of ~~fancy~~ fancy equipment which made the military uniform look nice. Instead, it was a necessary piece of every soldier's equipment that meant life or death. As a result the soldier's knew how to use it and prisoners respected that weapon. The sword Paul is talking about here is the short two edged sword carried by every Roman soldier. It was both an offensive and a defensive weapon and when drawn, the soldier knew how to use it.

The author of Hebrews tells us in the 4th chapter the 12th verse, "For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

This is what Paul was saying, only in more simpler terms. Paul saw the sword of his Roman guards and immediately thought of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit which leads the believer into all truth. But it is the Holy Spirit that directs the believer to seek his help from God's Word. And Paul knew the importance of reading Scripture. He knew that it was of help physically. Chained as he was each and every day to a complete stranger, Paul knew the loneliness and despondency which came into his life by being separated from those he loved.

(Illustration of old woman and help derived for nervous tension)

A minister tells of visiting a home in Florida where he saw an old Bible dated 1877. Upon examining it he discovered that it had belonged to an old woman who was a devout believer. On a slip of paper she told how in 1883 she had been plagued by extreme nervous tensions and how she thought she would lose her sanity. She went to a noted Boston physician. After a lengthy consultation he wrote the following prescription: "My good woman, you need to read your Bible more." And across the note were penciled these words, "It worked."

How many people have you talked to who tell you how nervous they are and they can't get over it? I've heard it many times. How many of them are seeking to overcome it by reading God's Word more? It's worth a try isn't it? But Paul not only knew God's Word to be of benefit physically, he rejoiced in it spiritually as well.

(Illustration of man throwing out Gutenberg Bible)

A man who had no use for anything old told a friend of his how he had thrown out an old Bible which had been in his attic collecting dust. He described it and said that somebody named Guten - something had printed it. His friend who knew the value of old books told him that he had thrown away a very valuable antique. He said, "You idiot, do you know what you threw out? It was one of the first books ever printed. Recently one was



one was sold at auction for over a million dollars." But the other man was unmoved. He said, "This one wasn't worth anything. It wouldn't have brought a dime. Some fellow named Martin Luther had scribbled notes all through it."

Paul knew the value of God's Word. He knew that the Holy Spirit directs those who read it in their daily lives. The Bible is alive and it comes alive for the believer because God will speak from its pages by His Holy Spirit. Listen what someone wrote about God's Word:

(Illustration of "The Bible")

This book contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilot's compass, the pilgrin's staff, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here heaven is open, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is the grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you here in this life, will be opened at the judgement, and is established forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its contents.

Is the "sword," the Word of God the main part of your Christian armor? Do you have your armor on? Are you prepared to do battle with the evil forces which surround us?

Are you a soldier of Christ? Do you know Him as the Lord and Savior of your life? How many of you will take Him as the One, the Only One who can lead us into and through the battle of life? You may want to respond to Him today by coming forward and ~~accepting Him into your~~ committing your life to him. Or perhaps you may want to re-commit your life. I invite you to respond as He leads. Put your armor on. Onward Christian soldiers, let us go forth into battle, for Him.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 17, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

\*Processional Hymn No. 279 "Savior, Thy Dying Love"

\*Ascription

\*Call to Communion and Confession (Communion Folder)

\*Prayer of Confession (Communion Folder)

\*Assurance of Pardon

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Communion Hymn No. 122 "In the Hour of Trial"

\*Service of Holy Communion (Page 2 of Communion Folder)

The Lord's Supper (Usher will direct you to the altar rail)

Distribution of the Bread

Distribution of the Cup

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem: "He Touched Me" by the Womens Choir

Scripture: Romans 5: 12-21

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: First"

\*Hymn No. 256 "The Old Rugged Cross"

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Sandy Sheppeck will greet the congregation and our  
guests at the door this morning.

Those serving Communion tonight will also be serving as  
Ushers.

Nursery will be provided this evening by Tracey Smiley.

Hospitalized: Irene Forcht, George MacKinney, and

Vivian Bolam in BMH., also Ed Beck.

Announcements:

Thursday evening the Butler Area Laymen's Association will  
be holding its dinner in Rehoboth Hall at 6:30 P.M.  
Choir will practice immediately following the service  
tonight. No Youth Choir practice this week.

> The Ushers will be distributing the Love Loaves to you  
on the way to your seats after receiving communion.  
They will be returned on Easter Sunday. This year the  
funds collected in the Love Loaves will be used in a  
Children's Christian Hospital in Kampuchea.

The Pastor will be on TV in the upcoming week. Beginning  
February 21 at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday 23rd at 9:30 A.M. and  
Thursday the 25th at 1:00 P.M.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 22 - Property Committee meeting will be at 7:00  
VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M. This is for any  
one interested in helping with VBS this  
year. Teachers, helpers, or craft teachers.

> The New Daily Bread booklets are in the Narthex.  
1987 Yearbook is also in the Narthex for those who have not  
received one.

It is time to order your Easter Egg. The Activities Comm-  
ittee is now taking orders. Ordering deadline is  
February 28th, so order now to assure you of a good  
choice of eggs.

> We will be taking New Members into the congregation. If  
you or someone you know may be interested in joining our  
family, please let the office know. This will be done  
on Palm Sunday, March 27th.

A new Christian Movie, "CAUGHT" will soon be coming to the  
Butler Area. Date at this time is uncertain, but the  
Tickets are now available through the office at a price  
of \$3.00 each. The movie will be shown in April.

ROL and the orchestra would like to see a few more members  
join them in their service to their church. If you would  
like to join us, please come in on Saturday mornings at  
10:30.

Before we know it, it will be time for the fish dinners  
that the Activities Committee is hosting. Please keep  
this in mind and be willing to help them out. Dates are  
March 9th and 23rd. This is for lunch and dinner.



2/

Shadowy Portents: First"

Scripture: Romans 5:12-21

(Ilus James Russell Lowell-las vs hymn-lnce 2evr man)  
 G has always stud lking upon His creatin & work out  
 His plan 4its redemptin  
 Way bak Bgin tim, in ancent period, G form na of dus &  
 Bcam liv soul & it fr shadowy pas we can C glimps  
 at G's plan was  
 If lk closely OT charactrs C portins G's futur plans  
 reveal in them & wil lk sum thez charactrs & C how G  
 reveal self in them  
 Shadowy=thez men shadows w/in shadowy plan of G  
 Portents=or signs of that wh/is 2cum  
 As in all plan mus satrt at Bgin=deal w/what is FIRSt  
 In this portin Scrip, P writ wat prob mos profound por-  
 tin of Scrip & 2expoun wud tak mor tim than hav  
 Will deal w/only sevrl vss this pasag  
 vs 12=P Bgin here & man refr 2is Adam  
 G's creatin perf, & includ Adam, but he chos disobey G  
 & Bcu this, sin entr in2 worl  
 P relat Bcu this sin brot deth 2all men, & all men  
 in worl sin Bcu of Adam  
 vs 13=P add, & he say Bcu no law in worl, man no chrg  
 w/sin, but it no mean man no sin  
 sin was ther, but no chrg 2mans acct but sumth els &  
 vs 14=2undrstan need go bak 2Gen 2:15-17-READ  
 vs 17=G giv coman 2Adam & expec coman 2B obey  
 but Adam no obey & he wuz responsbl 4deth entr worl  
 fr/tim Adam 2-Mos ther wuz no law, no comands say-donot  
 But ther phy deth wh/sepratin fr/G  
 evn tho ea persn fr Adam-Mos sim, ther sin no impute  
 or chrg 2ther acct  
~~nevertheless~~ they stil dy, wh/is & was penitny 4sin  
 P expl by say=vs 14a=& he simply say they no brk com  
 lik Adam did  
 & then add=vs 14B=P say Adam, Shadowy Portent of Js  
 Shadowy, unseen persn was Th One who wud ovrcum that  
 wh/dun & need 2undrstan this ONE who was 2cum was not  
 a cp 2Adam, but insted a contrast  
 Word Figur=Tupos in Gr & mean=type, patrn, resemblanc  
 1 Cor 15:21-22=READ & say in Rom 5:18-19  
 (Ilus man say-My sin is ful of life)  
 Ea individ cum in2 worl cud say this Bcu ea sin is  
 ful of lif of Adam who 1st brot sin in2 worl  
 Bu6 thru Js Xp sin bin blot out & in fac, Js has takn  
 th lif out of sin  
 thru Him we R clens & made whol & can hav that relat-  
 ship w/G wh/He desir of specil creatin fr/fndatin of  
 worl

(Ilus coal minr decoart 4 bravry by K of Eng)  
 & this is relatship can hav thru Xp  
 Being born in2 th sam liknes of Adam we R not a home  
 w/th King=Almity God  
 But thoz receiv Xp R born in2 th palac & hav th  
 loyal blud flo in ther veins  
 If U kno Xp as Ur L & Sav U R part of th Kingdm & th  
 old relatships hav ended  
 P sumup by say=vs 21  
 Thanks B 2-God who giveth us th victry thru our L &  
 Sav Js Xp. Amen

James Rusel Lowel-las vs hymn-Once 2evry  
man & natin

Tho th caus of evil prospr,yet tis truth  
alon is strong;

Tho her portin B th scaffold & upon th  
thron B wrong;

But that scaffold sways th futur,& Bhind  
dim unknown,

Standeth G w/in th shadow,keeping watch  
abuv His own.

vs 12

vs 13

vs 14A

Gen 2:15-17

vs 14B=TUPOS-typ,patrn,resemblanc  
(Ilus-MY SIN IS FUL OF LIFE)

1 Cor 15:21-22 & Rom 5:18-19

(Ilus mainer decorat 4bravry by K of Eng)

"I cudn't wait 2get out of th palac & bak  
2my litl cotag in Whithavn. But ther was  
a yng man Bsid th King who was perfectly  
at hom in th palac & wud hav nevr bin  
comftrtbl in my cotag. U C he was the Pr  
of Wales,th King's son,& he was born 2 th  
palac

Thoz receiv Xp R born in2 palac & royl  
blud flo thru veins-U R part of Kingdm

vs 21



"Shadowy Portents: First"

Scripture: Romans 5:12-21

James Russell Lowell in his hymn, "Once To Every Man And Nation," penned the words in the last verse:

Though the cause of evil prosper, yet tis truth alone is strong;  
Though her portion be the scaffold and upon the throne be wrong;  
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown,  
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above His own.

God has always stood looking upon His creation and working out His plan for its redemption. Way back in the very beginning of time, in that ancient period ~~when God was creating and forming the universe~~ of creation, God formed man of the dust of the ground and man became a living soul. It is ~~from~~ from that "shadowy" past that we can see glimpses of what God's plan was. If we look closely at many of the main characters of the Old Testament, we can see portions of God's future plans revealed in them. During this Lenten season we are going to look at a few of these men and see how God was revealing Himself in the distant future through them. I have entitled this series, "Shadowy Portents," because these men were shadows within the shadowy plan of God. And they were "Portents" or a sign of that which was to come. As in all plans we must start at the beginning. So where else to start, but to deal with that which is "First."

In our portion of Scripture for this evening, Paul ~~is~~ writes what is probably the most profound piece of theology in all of Scripture. To expound upon this Scripture portion would consume more time than we presently have. Thus, we will deal with just one or two verses from this block of Scripture passage.

Paul begins this section by saying, (read verse 12). The man he is referring to of course, is Adam. God's creation was perfect and that included Adam. But Adam chose to disobey God and because of this sin entered the world.

~~In the account found in Genesis chapter 2, God gives Adam his instructions. We read in the verses 15 through 17, (read these).~~

Paul relates that because of this sin, it brought death to all men, and that all men in the world sin because of Adam. So Paul then goes on to add, (read verse 13). He is saying that because there was no law in the world, sin was not charged to man's account, but that didn't mean that there wasn't sin. Sin was there, but it was not being charged to man's account, but something else was and we find that in the next verse. Paul states: "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression."

To understand that, we need to go back to the account in Genesis and see what transpired there. In Genesis chapter 2, verses 15 through 17 we read, (read these). In the 17th verse God gives a command to Adam and expects that com-



mand to be obeyed. But Adam does not obey it and as a result he is responsible for introducing death into the world. But from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, there was no law, no commandments that said "Do not." But there was physical death which is separation from God. Even though each person from the times of Adam to the days of Moses sinned, their sin was not imputed, or placed to their account. But nevertheless, they still died which is and was the penalty for sin. Paul explains it by saying, that they "Had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression." He is simply saying that they did not break a commandment like Adam did. And then he adds, "Who is a figure of Him that was to come." Paul is saying that Adam was the "Shadowy Portent," of Jesus.

The shadowy, unseen person was the One who could overcome that which was done. We need to understand that this One who was to come was not a comparison to Adam, but instead was a contrast. The word "Figure" which Paul uses in this 14th verse is from the Greek word "TUPOS" which means, "a type, pattern, or resemblance." Paul explains this further in his letter to the Corinthians in the 15th chapter, Verses 21 & 22, (read these). This is exactly what he is also saying in the 18th & 19th verses of this Scripture in Romans 5, (read these verses.)

(Illustration of man coming forward at invitation & "my sin is full of life")

At the close of a worship service a man came forward to the altar rail.

As he knelt there the tears were flowing down his cheeks and he grasped the hand of the minister and said with deep emotion, "My sin is full of life."

He meant to say, "My life is full of sin," but instead said the other.

But what he was actually saying was what every person can say.

Each individual who comes into this world could say, "My sin is full of life!" Each sin is full of the life of Adam who first brought sin into the world. But through Jesus Christ, sin has been blotted out and in fact, Jesus has taken the life out of sin. Through Him we are cleansed and made whole. We can have that relationship with God which He desired of His special creation from the foundation of the world.

(Illustration of coal miner decorated for bravery)

In England a ~~simple~~ very simple hard working coal miner was summoned to Buckingham Palace to be decorated by the King of England for bravery.

He was a big man, perhaps much like the "Big John" of the popular song of a few years back. This large miner used his considerable size and bulk to hold up the collapsing roof of the mine while his fellow-workers were able to escape by crawling between his legs. As far as he was concerned he hadn't done anything which anyone else in the same situation wouldn't have done, so he was embarrassed to go to the palace and be decorated.

He said, "I couldn't wait to get out of the palace and back to my little cottage at Whitehaven. But there was a young man beside the king who was perfectly at home in the palace and would have never been comfortable in my cottage. You see, he was the Prince of Wales, the king's son, and he was born to the palace."

And this is the relationship we have through Christ. Being born into the same likeness of Adam we are not at home with The King, Almighty God.



But those who receive Christ, ~~have~~ are born into the palace and have the royal blood flowing in their veins. If you know Christ as your Lord and Savior you are a part of the Kingdom and the old relations has been ended. Paul sums this up by saying, (read verse 21). Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 21, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Mike Gamble

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 244 "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, in this season of self-discipline, when we are giving thought to our discipleship, make us aware that being a disciple means to follow Jesus Christ as He seeks to be a servant of all. Thus we would remember: all our sins that keep us apart from you; all of the things we have omitted to do in our lives; all of the chances we have missed to help others and to seek them for your kingdom. For all of these things as well as others that may separate us from your love, we ask forgiveness in His name. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 246 "Man of Sorrows," What a Name!"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Thy Will Be Done"

Scripture: Genesis 6: 8-22

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Life Preserver"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 95 "At the Cross"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by

Mrs. Catherine Pflugh in memory of Roy Pflugh.

Mr. & Mrs. George Pflugh will greet the members and our guests at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be done by the Youth.

Attendance last Sunday was 142 with 19 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Anna May Snyder.

Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Vivian Bolam, Irene Forcht, George MacKinney, Becky Shearer and Carl Hollefreund Jr.

SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7:00 P.M.

Bible Study Group at 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY - Property Committee will meet at 7:00 P.M.

VBS pre-planning meeting will be held at 7:00

Anyone interested in helping with VBS in any way, please come to this meeting.

THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice at 6:00 P.M.

Chancel Choir practice at 7:00 P.M.

Love Loaves are available today for those of you who did not get them on Wednesday evening at the service.

They will be returned to the church on Easter Sunday.

The new Daily Bread booklet along with the 1987 Yearbook is in the Narthex for you to pick up.

Easter Eggs will again be made. The deadline for ordering is February 28th. The price is \$4.50 each in flavors of Peanut Butter, Maple Nut, Cherry Nut, Fruit n' Nut, Coconut and French Vanilla Meltaway. See one of the Activities Committee or drop a note in the offering plate.

New members will be taken into the church on Palm Sunday. If you or someone you know would like to join, please let the Pastor or the office know.

We are still looking for a few more instruments to add to our orchestra. If you would like to join us, come in on Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



"Shadowy Portents: Life Preserver"  
 Scripture: Genesis 6:8-22  
 (Ilus perf wethr day/nite in time of Noah)  
 graduly peo sunk 2lowr lev1 & now at this tim wer evil  
 pervrt 2exten stench reach nostrils of G  
 G cudnt tak anymor  
 Jer 5:7=Moses wrot  
 in mid this 1 man was dif; 1 man stud out fr rest  
 vs 8=this man was Noah & why did Noah find gr G's site  
 vs 9=this no mean N w/out sin & perf; Mos simply say  
 as far N abl, sot 2B jus/ritus & rais famly that way  
 that wat ment=Perf in his genratin  
 vs 11=12=Mos reit wicknes peo on erth  
 vs 13=G cam directly in2 N's lif  
 G then giv N directin 4bild of ark  
 need 2B remin all this totl nu 2 N & thez peo  
 it nevr rain B4 & N ask 2step out compl in faith  
 Heb 11:7=tel us this; it stricly by faith N did as tol  
 can U pictur amt abus/ridicul N & sons receiv as they  
 labr 120 yrs erec lrg boat completly dry land?  
 Not only that, but N had stok ark w/fud,provisin 4  
 animls & his famly  
 wisguys suroun N mus hav had field day  
 but N work stedly & did so 4sevr1 reasns  
 1st=N walk w/God=he no join forces w/evil crowd  
 his motto no=since evrl do it, why shudnt I  
 N was G's man & nuth go 2chang that  
 think of courag tuk 2act independntly of res peo  
 rnd him?  
 2nd=N's obed Bcuz involv contract w/God=vs 18  
 purp this expl 2=N in detail & vs 20 giv instrucs  
 bout birds/animls & end w/word=2 Keep Them Alive  
 f mu all thez provis wer 2-1st preserv famlys lif,  
 & 2nd preserv livs species birds/animls  
 so here hav 1st record cov in Bibl, but cov incumbant  
 upon G only 2 fulfil it  
 G prom wud prolong/dav lif N & Famly & of birds/animl  
 & creaturs wh/wer on ark  
 it not cov wh/N had 2prom certthings in ordr 2keep  
 or put th cov in2 force  
 so in this get glimps ancent pas of that wh/G wud  
 accomplish in futur  
 saw His creatin had Bcum corrup/evil=but in corrup/evi  
 ther 1 man who stud out in contras 2all othrs  
 Thus G no seek 2B completly vengful F & destroy all  
 here then is Portent or 4shado that wh/He wud do mor  
 completly & fuly in futur  
 bak in that shadowy pas wasnt hint that event was  
 merely th 4runner of G's plan of salvatin

Here, N was=1st preserv 4remant peo/animls  
 G's plan 4mank has alway bin He no conten 4mank 2B  
 sep fr/Him  
 & ult preserv of lif He acomplish thru Js Xp  
 in 3rd chap Gospl Jn Js viv tel misin G's provisin  
 vs 16=this familiar vs tel wat G sot do thru Him  
 vs 17=Js say He ult Lif Preservr  
 & 1 mak cp how G brot 4th remnant fr/N & family,  
 we can C simlarty tween lif/minstry Js  
 Naturly, N canot B plac sam lev1 Js  
 but 4 cp's sak can C Shadowy Portent ther  
 But Js no jus spk lovly words comf, also tol how mank  
 wud react 2anyth wh/G did 2bring salv 2 mank  
 vss 18-20=men luv darknes mor than lite is a truth  
 that prevlent in tim N & dwn thru histry  
 had peo rnd N turn fr/wicknes th story of N wud hav  
 end dif  
 Wen G was go2 destroy Sod/Gom Bcuz ther evil wickne  
 peo had chanc repen & turn fr/it, but they no did  
 As result=only remnant sav  
 it alwy bin this way, & alway wilB so  
 Only remnant of world's pop who hav evr liv on this w  
 erth wilB in G's etrn1 kingdm & this cause men=3:19B  
 But this is not Bcuz G duznt luv mank, it Bcuz man  
 duznt acpt wat G has givn 2him  
 & evn w/individ congs w/in Ch of Js Xp ther R thoz  
 who wil not B a part of that remnant in etrnty Bcuz  
 thry R ch membris 4reasns othr than hav acpt Js Xp  
 as L & Sav  
 ther R many outsid ch who wil not Bcum Xpians Bcuz  
 of actins of thoz suposedly Xpians  
 Lk at blak ey ch givn las yr Bcuz of sum  
 (I' ) 3mn on train & talk bout Xpianity)  
 Wher do U stan?  
 It is matt'r of choic  
 R U try 2stan w/one fut in ch & 1 in worl?  
 U canot B tru folowr of Js if that wher U stan  
 It can only B w/both feet in Ch or both feet in worl  
 It cant B either or  
 G gav mank th shadowy exams of wat He wud do thru  
 Xp  
 But mank has always had choic  
 Wat is Ur choic this day?

Jn 3:16-Js ult Lif Preservr  
 vs 17- G not content condem  
 vss 18-20  
 vs 19B=men luv darknes mor  
 (Ilus 3men & Xpianity  
 salv hang on wat Js did,  
 not on wat othrs do)

## "Shadowy Portents: Life Preserver"

Scripture: Genesis 6:8-22

Each day was a beautiful day filled with sunshine. The temperature was ideal. It was never too hot, but just right. Flowers blossomed and bloomed all year round without interruption. The nights were equally ideal with clear skies and the heaven filled with stars twinkling and glistening constantly. It was a time in which all was ideal with just a few exceptions, but the people of the time were less than ideal. Theirs had been perfection as well, but gradually they had sunk to lower levels and now at this time they were evil and perverted to the extent that their very lives raised a stench that reached the nostrils of God. And God couldn't take it anymore. Thus Moses wrote, (read Genesis 6:5-7).

But in the midst of this, there was one man that was different. One man ~~xxx~~ stood out from the rest and God took notice of this man and Moses wrote of him, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of God." verse 8. Why did Noah of all men find grace in God's sight? The 9th verse relates, "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."

This doesn't mean that Noah was actually perfect and without sin. Moses is simply stating that as far as Noah was able, he sought to be just and righteous and he was raising his family this same way. That is simply what is meant by, "perfect in his generations."

Moses reiterates the wickedness of the people on the earth, (read verses 11-12). It is then that God came directly into Noah's life and we read, (read verse 13). God then gives Noah the instructions for the building of this ark. We need to be reminded that all of this was totally new to Noah and these people. It had never rained before and Noah was being asked to step out completely in faith to do what God desired of him. The author of the book of Hebrews tells us in the 11th chapter, verse 7, (read this). It was strictly by faith that Noah did as he was told. Can you picture the amount of abuse and ridicule Noah and his sons received as they labored for 120 years erecting this large boat on completely dry land? Not only that, but Noah had to ~~take~~ stock the ark with food and provisions for the animals and for his family. The wiseguys ~~xxxxxx~~ surrounding Noah must have had a field day.

But Noah worked steadily at his task and he did so for several reasons. The first of course was that "Noah walked with God." He didn't join forces with the evil crowd. His motto wasn't that since everybody was doing it, so should he. Noah was God's man and nothing was going to change that. Think of the courage it took for him to act independently of the rest of the people around him.

The second reason for Noah's obedience was that he was involved in a contract with God. The 18th verse relates, "But with thee will I establish My covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons wives with thee."



The purpose of this had been explained to Noah in detail and in the 20th verse which gives the instructions about the birds and animals ends with the words, "To keep them alive." Noah knew that all of these provisions were to preserve first the lives of himself and his family. And second to preserve the lives of the species of birds and animals.

Here we have the first recorded covenant in the Bible. But this covenant was incumbent upon God only to fulfill it. God promised that He would prolong and save the life of Noah and his family and of the birds and animals and creatures which were on the ark. It was not a covenant in which Noah had to promise certain things in order to keep or put the covenant into force. So it is in this that we get a glimpse in this ancient past of that which God would accomplish sometime in the future.

God saw that His creation had become corrupt and evil. But in that evil and corruption there was one man who stood out in contrast to all the others. Thus God was not seeking to be a completely vengeful Father and destroy everything and everyone. Here then was the "Portent" or foreshadowing of that which He would do more completely and fully in the future. Back in that "Shadowy" past there wasn't a hint that event was merely the forerunner of God's plan of salvation. Here, Noah was the "Life Preserver" for a remnant of people and of animal life.

God's plan for mankind has always been that He was not content for mankind to be separated from Him. And the ultimate preserving of life He accomplished through Jesus Christ. It is in the 3rd chapter of John that Jesus vividly tells of His mission as God's provision for mankind. ~~In the 16th verse of this chapter Jesus tells distinctly what His God sought to do~~

In the very familiar 16th verse of this chapter we hear Jesus tell what God sought to do through Him, (Read this). And then He follows that up with the words, "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Jesus is saying that He was the ultimate "Life Preserver." And if we make the comparison between how God brought forth a remnant from Noah and his family, we can see the similarity ~~between~~ in the life and ministry of Jesus. Naturally, Noah cannot be placed on the same level as Jesus. But for comparison's sake we can see the "Shadowy Portent" there. But Jesus didn't just speak some lovely words of comfort, He also told how mankind would react to anything which God did to bring salvation to mankind. Reading on the 3rd chapter of John's Gospel Jesus said, (read verses 18-20). Men loved darkness more than light is a truth that was prevalent in the time of Noah and down through history. Had the people around Noah turned from their wickedness the story of Noah I'm sure would have ended differently. When God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their evil and wickedness,



the people had a chance to repent and turn from it, but they didn't. And as a result only a remnant was saved. It has always been this way, and unfortunately will always be this way. Only a remnant of the total world's population who will have ever lived on this earth will be in God's eternal kingdom, "because men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil," Jn 3:19B.

But that is not because God doesn't love mankind, it is because man does not accept what God has given to him. And even within individual congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ there are those who will not be a part of that remnant in eternity because they are church members for reasons other than they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. There are many outside of the church who will not become followers of Christ simply because of the actions of those who are supposedly "Christians." Look at the black eye the Christian Church has received last year and is getting today because of the actions of some within it.

(Illustration of three men on train talking about Christianity)

Three men were riding in a coach on a train sitting on seats that faced each other. As they began their journey together one of the men began talking to the man across from him. In the course of their conversation the man said that he was a Christian. Immediately, the other man seized this opportunity to tell why he was not a Christian and he related all of the gory details of many so called "Christians" who were corrupt and evil. All this time the other passenger seated beside the Christian upon whom this abuse was being heaped didn't enter into the conversation. The man seated across from them, desiring to include this man asked him about his religious convictions. The up to this point silent man, now broke his silence by saying, "I see you are quick to detect evil. You are quick to point out the things which have turned Christianity into the mess it is in today. Now I'm a Christian, but I'll not offer a word of defense against anything you have said because it is true. But I would like to challenge you to speak a word against Jesus Christ."

The other man was surprised and said, "Oh no, I couldn't say anything against Him. He was perfect."

The other man replied, "That's so. And you see, when I compared myself to Him I found I could never be perfect. I'm a guilty sinful man and I wasn't like Him at all. And I've seen what so called "followers" of Him do which is evil and corrupt. But what they do cannot turn me away from Him. My salvation hangs on what He has done, and not on what others are doing."

Where do you stand? It is a matter of choice. Are you trying to stand with one foot in the church and the other in the world? You cannot be a true follower of Jesus if that is where you stand. It can only be both feet in the church or both feet in the world. It cannot be either or. God gave mankind the shadowy examples of what He would do through Christ. But mankind has always had the choice. What is your choice this day?



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 28, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Mike Gamble and Jimmy Shearer

\*\*\*\*\*  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude "Ave Venum"

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 223 "I Stand Amazed"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Most merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you and against our fellowmen. We have followed too closely the pathway that was easy, and we have done whatever we desired. We have failed to praise you with our words and deeds, and we have ignored the needs of others. Even though we have known your will for our lives, we have failed to follow it. Grant your mercy unto us, O Father, as we express our regret for that which we have done. Receive us again into your fold, as we would endeavor to go forth serving you more faithfully, in the name of Christ. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 591 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "It Is No Secret" by the Youth Orchestra

Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "I Do Believe" by the Gaithers

Soloists: Shirley Link, Bonnie Gannon, Marie  
Henry and Ginny Mangel

Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-3

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Promise"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 114 "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "O Brightly Streaming Star"

\*\*\*\*\* \*Congregation Standing \*\*\*\*\*

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by

Tracey Smiley in memory of her father.

Mrs. Genny Nohach will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, George Pflugh, Dick Dally, and Don Kingsley.

Attendance last Sunday was 109 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sandy Sheppeck.

Rick Vinroe, Ken Draxinger, and Lloyd Link will be visiting the hospital this week.

\*Hospitalized: George MacKinney, Becky Shearer, Irene Forcht, and Carl Hollefreund Jr. in BMH. Mrs. Alma Rex is in St. Margarets Hosp. in Pitts.

SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7 P.M.

Bible Study group at 7 P.M.

WEDNESDAY - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY - Begin to make Easter Eggs at 6:00 P.M.

Choir for youth at 6:00 and Adults at 7:00 P.M.

LOVE LOAVES - today will be the last day for you to pick up your Love Loaf if you have not already done so.

EASTER EGG orders are due in today. Please make sure you have put your order in to one of the Activities Committee.

New members will be taken into the church on Palm Sunday. If you or someone you know may be interested please be sure to let the Pastor or office know.

Bob Weisenstein participated as the Liturgist for the TV tapings. He will appear on TV on March 6, 8, and 10th.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

"SHADOWY PORTENTS: PROMISE"

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 12:1-3  
 ILIUS COLUMBUS & "BETTER MANAGEMENT AWARD")  
 THER LNCE WAS 75yr old man 4WHOM OS THIS TRU  
 HIS NAM=AB & LISTN 2VOIC NOT HERD BY OTHR MEMS FAMLY 2DO WAT VOIC  
 TO HIM

IE STAR OUT-NOT KNO WHERE GO,& UPON ARIV DIDNT KNO WHERE WAS:& ONLY  
 THING DID KNO WAS WHERE HE HAD BIN  
 VERY SUDNLY AFTR SILENC OF GENRATINS,G SPKS OUT AGIN  
 HE CAL OUT 2THIS OBSCUR MAN & WE TOL=VS 1-READ  
 (bram,or ABRHAM WAS WIL 2ANSR THIS STRANG CAL & WE KNO HE DID,  
 CUZ READ VSS 4 & 5-READ  
 NOT ONLY CAL 2OBSCUR HERDSMAN UNIQ,BUT DEPIC MAXX MAN WIL 2ACCP  
 XXXXXIIM CAL AT FACE VALU  
 N BUK HEB. CHAP 11 WE TOL AB DID THIS BY FAITH  
 THIS MENT AB HAD2 4SAK ALL KNOWN 2HIM,2GO IN2 UNKNO  
 TH CAL 2 AB WAS NOT ONLY 2SEPRAT SELF FR ALL FAMILIR,BUT G  
 FROM - VSR VS 2-READ  
 NOW HERE PROMS G GAV 2AB & NOTIC THEY NO CONDITINAL-G NO SAY-I WIL  
 MAK U A GRT NATIN IF U DO SO & SO,OR,I WIL BLES THEE & MAK THEE  
 BRT IF THOU WILT DO SUCH & SUCH  
 THER NO STRING ATACH  
 AB SEEK 2DO & WAS B ASK 2ACPT STRICLY BY FAITH & BCUZ AB REACT  
 IN FAITH,ALL G SED 2HIM CAM 2PASS  
 ILIUS PEDRO -8YR OLD BOY & HIS FAITH IN XP)  
 HOW MUCH FAITH DO U HAV? WUD U B WIL 2RISK ALL 4 G'S CAL UPON UR  
 LIF?  
 NOT 2MANY XPIANS R WIL 2MAK THAT/SACRIFIC BCUZ IT MUCH EASIER  
 2SIT IN COMF CH ON SUN & GO HOM 2COMP HOMS & COMF LIVS AFTRWARD  
 & LET TH WORK OF XP UP 2 OTHRS  
 BUT NOT ME  
 AB ISNT LIK THAT,HE NO MAK EXCUS & SAY ' LET SUM1 ELS DO IT  
 HE NO MAK OR GIV REASNS WHY HE WASNT QUALIFIED,UNABL 2DO IT  
 WAT WE READ BOUT AB IN BEGIN 4th VSTHIS SCRIP SHUD RING IN TH  
 EARS OF EACH US LIK CHINES GONG - READ THIS VERSE  
 R U WIL 2LISTN 2 G'S VOIC & HEED TH CAL???

AFTR G RELAT 2AB THAT HE WIL MAK GRT NATIN OF HIM & MAK NIS NAME  
 GRT G TEL HIM - VS #3A - READ  
 HISTRY IS REPLET W/NATIN AFTR NATIN WH/ROS 2POWR & IN THER EN-  
 THUSIASM 2B NUMBR 1 SQT 2DESTROY G'S PEO TH JEWS & WER THEMSELVS  
 DESTROYD  
 BABYLON,ASSYRIA,EGYPT,MOAB,GREEC,ITALY,GERMANY  
 G MADE THIS PROM & HE HAS NEVR RESCINDED IT  
 G WILNOT PERMIT ANY1.INDIVIDLT OR AS A NATIN 2SEEK 2DESTROY THAT  
 WH/IS HIS  
 IT DUZNT MEAN THAT G IS PLEAS W/WAT HIS PEO HAV DUN OR R DOING  
 AS A NATIN  
 G CERTINLY ISNT PLEAS W/WAT JEWS HAV DUN SINCE THEY TURN FR/HIM  
 AFTR THER EXILE

BUT HIS HAN IS STIL ON THEM SEEK 2BRING THEM IN2 TH/FOLD  
 & ACORD 2 BIBLICL PROFH 1DAY THAT WIL OCCUR  
 D BUT IN MEANTIM,G STIL LUVS THEM AS HIS PEO & HE DEMAN THAT WE  
 LUV THEM 2  
 SO B CARFUL WAT U DO OR SAY BOUT G'S PEOP

AFI. ) PROMS 2MAK GRT NATIN OF JEWS THRU AB,& PROMS 2BLES TH/XXXX  
 THOZ WHO BLES JEWS,& CURS THOZ WHO CURS THEM HE IMPART 2AB 1 FINAL  
 PROMIS=VS 3B\*READ  
 THIS WAS MERLY REITRATIN OF WAT G FROM XXXXX AS RECORD IN GEN 3:15  
 HERE G MAK FROM 2SATN THAT HIS DAYS R NUMBRED  
 G PROMS 2PUT STRIF OR WARFAR TWEEN MAN & SATN,BUT MOR IMPORTNLY  
 IT TWEEN SEED OF WOMAN WH/IS MESSIAH,& TWEEN SEED OF SATN WH/IS  
 SIN & DETH  
 NOTIC IT DUZNT SAY=SEEDS,PLURAL WH/IS WAT WOMN HAS BROT 4TH IN WORL  
 SINCE TIM OF EVE  
 IT SIMPLY SAY =SEED & THAT MEAN ONE & ONLY ONE  
 IT IS THRU THAT ONE THAT ALL TH EARTH IS 2B BLES  
 WE CAN C THIS IF GO BAK & TRAC GENEOLOGY OF MAN UP 2 THIS PT OF  
 SCRIP

IN CHAP 11 VS 10 WE READ =READ THIS  
 SHEM U MAY RECAL WAS 1 OF 3 SONS OF NOAH  
 G 1ST CREAT ADAM & THEN READ OF G SAV CREATIN THRU NOAH  
 NOAH HAD 3SONS & 1 OF THEM WAS THIS SHEM READ BOUT  
 & 1 OF DESCENDENTS OF SHEM BCAM FATHR OF TERAH & TERAH WAS F OF AB  
 IT WAS G WHO SINGL OUT AB'S SON ISAAC 2 CARRY ON RACE  
 & IT WAS ISAAC WHO CHOZ JACOB HIS YNGR SON AS TH/PREFR ONE  
 & IT FR/JACOB IS TRAC TH LINE OF JUDAH 2 TH/HOUS OF DAVID  
 & TH/HOUS OF DAV END IN TH/MAN JS XP  
 & IT FR/JS IT SWEEPS OUT IN2 TIM & COVRS TH/WHOL EARTH  
 & 4THRMOR,FR/JS XP TH/CURS THAT G PLAC ON MANK IS MN NULIFY & TH  
 ORI' ) RELATSHIP WH/G WANT W/MAN IS RESTOR AGIN  
 THAT RELATSHIP IS POSIBL ONLY THRU XP  
 WAY,WAY,BAK IN SHADOWY ANCIENT PAS IN PERSN OF HUMBL HERDSMAN  
 NAM AB G HAD PLAN WH/BGAN 2UNFOLD FR/PEOMIS & CULMINAT IN PERSN  
 OF JX XP  
 (ILIUS OF LITTLE GIRL,BIRTHDAY PARTY,& 'MOMMY I GIV U ME')  
 THAT,IN ESSENC IS PRECISLY WAT G DID  
 HE CAM IN2 TH/WORL IN FULFILMENT OF PROMISE HE MADE 2 AB SEVRL  
 THOUSAN YRS B4 & SED=I GIV U ME  
 DO U KNO THAT GIFT?  
 R U WIL 2 ANSR HIS CAL 2DAY & CUM & SERV HIM?  
 I EXTEN INVITATIN 2ACPT HIS CAL 2DAY 4UR LIF  
 WONT UANSR & TURN UR LIF OVR 2HIM 2DAY?



"Shadowy Portents: Promise"

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

(Illustration of award to Columbus for his accomplishment of "not knowing")

A corporate manager announced that a new award had been established to be given annually. It was to be given to the person who best embodied the true spirit of "Better Management. Then he announced that the first person to be so honored was to be Christopher Columbus posthumously.

The award read: "He started out not knowing where he was going; upon arriving, he didn't know where he was; and upon returning, he didn't know where he had been."

There was once a seventy-five year old man for whom most of this was true. His name was Abraham and he listened to a voice not heard by the other members of his family to do what that voice was telling him to do. "He started out, not knowing where he was going; upon arriving he didn't know where he was," and the only thing he did know, was where he had been. Very suddenly, after a silence of generations, God speaks out again. He calls out to this obscure man and we are told in the 1st verse of the 12th chapter of Genesis, "'Now the Lord had said unto Abram, 'Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee.'"

Abram, or Abraham was willing to answer this strange call and we know that he did because in the 4th and 5th verses of this same chapter we are told, "So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the soul that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."

Not only is the call of this obscure herdsman unique, but it depicts a man willing to accept this call at face value. In the 11th chapter of Hebrews we are told that Abraham did this "by faith." This meant that Abraham had to forsake all that was known to him, to go into the unknown. The call to Abraham was not only to separate himself from all that was familiar, but God promised, "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing," verse 2.

Now here are the promises that God gave to Abraham and notice they were not conditional. God didn't say to Abraham, "I will make of thee a great nation" if thou wilt do so and so. Nor did God say, "I will bless thee and make thy name great" if ~~xxx~~ thou wilt do such and such. There were no strings attached. Abraham was asked to accept all of this strictly by faith. And because Abraham reacted in faith, all that God said to him came to pass.

(Illustration of little 8 year-old boy and his faith in Christ)

One Sunday an 8-year-old boy was in church and heard the minister Pastor Harold Dye preach on Simon the Cyrene carrying the cross for Jesus as He was being led to be crucified on Calvary. Following the service, little Pedro said to the minister, "You asked in your sermon what we would have done if we were in the crowd when Jesus fell under the weight of the cross. I'm sure I would have been happy to carry it." The boy had recently accepted Christ although his parents were antagonistic to the Gospel. To test him, the minister said, "Yes, but if you had helped Jesus, the cruel Roman soldiers would probably beaten you with whips." Without hesitation, the boy answered, "I don't care! I love Him! I'd have done it just the same."

Two weeks later Pastor Dye stood at the door after the service. When Pedro came by he patted him affectionately on the shoulder. Shrinking back with a little cry, Pedro pleaded "Please don't do that. My back is very sore." Since the minister had barely touched him he was puzzled. He took the boy to a nearby cloak room and asked him to remove his shirt. Crisscrossing his back to his waist were huge red welts. "Who did that?" the preacher

Terah became the father of Abram, or Abraham. It was ~~Abraham~~ who singled out ~~his~~ son Isaac ~~xxxx~~  
~~xxxxxxx~~ to carry on the race; and it was Isaac who chose Jacob his younger son as the pre-  
~~xxx~~ferred one and from Jacob is traced the line of Judah to the House of David; and the House of  
David ends in the man Jesus Christ and from Him it sweeps out into time and covers the whole  
earth.

And furthermore, from Jesus Christ, the curse that God placed upon mankind is nullified and  
the original relationship which God wanted with man is restored once again. That relation-  
ship is only possible through Jesus Christ. Way, way back in the shadowy ancient past in  
the person of a humble ~~herd~~ herdsman named Abram or Abraham, God had a plan which ~~was~~ be-  
gan to unfold from a promise and culminated in the person of Jesus Christ.

(Illustration of little girl and birthday party for her mother & "Mommy, I give you ME!")  
The mother of a family was celebrating a birthday and the rest of the family was treating  
her to a party. When the time for the presentation of the gifts arrived, she was instruct-  
ed to sit in her favorite living room chair. One by one, the father and the two older  
children came in from the kitchen bearing their gifts on a tray, solemnly presenting them  
to her as royalty. The smallest girl really too little to have had much of a role in the  
gift selection, had been left out of these joyous plans. But watching the process, she  
rose to the occasion. For when the others thought the party was over, she appeared from  
the kitchen bearing an empty tray. Approaching her mother she placed the tray on the  
floor, stepped upon it herself, and with a childish wiggle of joy said, "Mommy, I give  
you ~~ME~~ ME!"

That, in essence is precisely what God did. He came into the world in fulfillment of the  
PROMISE He made to Abraham several thousand years before and said, "I give you ME."

Do you know that gift? Are you willing to answer His call today to come and serve Him?  
I extend the invitation to accept His call today for your life. Won't you answer and turn  
your life over to Him?



asked angrily? "My mother," said Pedro. "She whipped me because I came to church!" That Mexican boy proved he was willing to stand up for the One in whom he had put his faith. He wasn't afraid of what anyone could do to him.

How much faith do you have? Would you be willing to risk all for God's call upon your life? Not too many Christians are willing to make that sacrifice. It's much easier to sit in a comfortable church for an hour on Sunday, and go home to our comfortable houses and comfortable lives afterward and let the work of Christ up to others, but "Not me."

Abraham wasn't like that. He didn't make excuses and say, "Let someone else do it," and make all sorts of excuses why he wasn't qualified, or unable to do it. ~~Thexxxxxxxexfx thisxScripturxxxxxshouldxringxinxxxxxxexxxxxxxfxxxxxxxlikexxxShinxxxxxgong~~ What we read about Abraham in the beginning of the 4th verse of this Scripture should ring in the ears of each of us like a Chinese gong. God tells us, "So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken to him." Are you willing to listen to God's voice and heed the call?

After God relates to Abraham that he will make a great nation of him, and make his name great, God tells him, "And I will bless them that curse thee, and curse him that curseth thee! History is replete with nation after nation which rose to power, and in their enthusiasm to be number one sought to destroy God's people the Jews and themselves were destroyed. Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Moab, Greece, Italy, and in our time Germany. God made this promise and He has never rescinded it. God will not permit anyone, individually, or as a nation to seek to destroy that which is His. It doesn't mean that God loves what His people do or have done individually or as a nation. God certainly <sup>ISN'T</sup> ~~isn't~~ pleased with what the Jews have done since they turned from Him as far back as the time of the exile. But His hand is still upon them seeking to bring them into the fold. And according to Biblical prophecy one day that will occur. But in the meantime, God still loves them as His people and He demands that we love them too. So be careful what you do or say about God's people.

After God promises to make a great nation of the Jews through Abraham, and He promises to bless those who ~~xxxxxxJews~~ bless the Jews and curse those who curse them, He imparts to ~~the~~ Abraham one final promise and that is, "And in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

This was merely a reiteration of what God had promised as recorded in the 3rd chapter of Genesis. It is there in the 15th verse that God first makes the promise to Satan that his days will be numbered. (Read this verse). God promises to put strife, or warfare between man and Satan. But more importantly it is between the seed of Satan which is sin and death, and between the seed of the woman which is to be the Messiah. Notice it doesn't say "seeds" plural which is what womankind has brought forth in the world since the time of Eve. It is simply "SEED" and that means ONE and only ONE. It is through that One that all of the earth is to be blessed. We can see this if we go back and trace the genealogy of man up to this point in Scripture. Going back to the 10th verse of the 11th chapter we read, "These are the generations of Shem."

Shem you may recall was one of the three sons of ~~xxxx~~ Noah. God first created Adam and then we read of God saving His creation through Noah. Noah had three sons and one of them was this Shem we read about. And one of the descendants of Shem became the father of Terah.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 6, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: John Penrod and Dave Brinker

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 274 "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) O thou who dost in utter faithful-  
ness stand outside the closed doors of the hearts of men,  
knocking again and again, give us the will to open our  
lives to thee. Come and cleanse our in-most being and  
make your home within our hearts, that we may love thee  
even as thou hast loved us; through Jesus Christ, our  
Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 246 "Man of Sorrows," What a Name!

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with you

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "The Old Rugged Cross" Organ and Saxophone

Scripture: Hebrews 11: 17-19

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Seed"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 263 "There Is A Fountain Filled  
with Blood"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + +

\*Congregation Standing

+ + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Mangel in memory of "Uncle Jimmy."

Mrs. Mid Diefenderfer will greet our members and friends  
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Marty Henry, John Snow, Frank  
Crawford, and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 135 with 18 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by LuAnn Janicki & Megan Hewi  
Art Snyder and Howard Jaillet will be visiting the hosp-  
ital this week.

Hospitalized: Irene Forcht in BMH and Mrs. Alma Rex in  
St. Margaret's in Pittsburgh.

SUNDAY - Junior Youth Group at 5:30 P.M.

Youth Group at 7 to 8:30 P.M.

Bible Study at 7:00

TUESDAY - set up for the Fish Fry

WEDNESDAY - Fish Fry lunch and dinner. If you are baking  
pies or cake please bring them in early.

THURSDAY - Youth choir at 6 Chancel choir at 7

UPCOMING DATES: VBS Workshop Seminar at St. John's Church  
on Evans City Road at 7:30 P.M., March 15th.

Daily Bread booklets are in the Narthex for your daily  
Bible reading.

Palm Sunday we will be taking new members into the church.

If you or someone you know would like to join, please  
see that the information gets into the office.

Easter Eggs will be ready for you to pick up and deliver  
on March 20th.

Easter lilly time. Please place your order now. The  
price is \$5.45 each for plant with 3-4 blooms.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire.



"Shadowy Portent: Seed"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-19  
(Ilus city slickers & "Mule Egg")  
Th/agd patriarch Ab mus hav fel lik this wen perceiv wat G want  
him 2do in sacrific son  
Cud hav sed/felt I want fol G fully, but 2slay my son,I no want  
2r that far  
But Authr Heb tel us=Heb 11:17-18  
writr relat that wh/record 2plac OT buk Genesis=chps 21 & 22  
Gen 22:1-2=here we C instrucs of G 2-Ab concern sacrific wh/G ask  
Ab 2mak  
but in lite wat transpir B4 all this,thes instrucs mayel hav  
apear 2B complet contradictin 2 Ab  
4instanc=read chap 21about a prom ~~was~~ G made 2 Ab  
bakgr 2this pt was,G prom son 2 Ab/Sar& that son was suposly  
on scen in persn Isaac  
but nothr son on scen,bron 2 Sar maid Hagar wh/Sar conspir  
2bring in2 worl by mate husb Ab w/serv Hagar  
This son=Ish now pok fun yng Isaac wh/provok Sar & deman Ab  
remov both Hagar & Ish fr/famly  
So we lern=Gen 21:12=in othr word,G tel Ab 2listn 2gri~~ph~~ of wif &  
now we kno wif has Scrip grnds 2 "NAG"  
But Ab bin tol fr/Isac th/prom G made 2him wudB fulfil  
Isac was 2B start that seed of Ab wh/wud mak of him grt natin,  
& thru whom all worl wudB bles  
but now numbr yrs hav pas & ther seem 2B som discrepancy,at  
leas if we luk at this fr/complet humn stanpt  
But fortunatly Ab lk all this thru eyes of faith in his God  
Gen 22@1="G did tempt Ab" - in orig Heb read=& TH/ELOHIM,HE  
TRIED THIS ABRAHAM  
fr this note sevrل things=1st-w/def articl denot this=THE GOD  
But Elohim plurl & phras tak on COMPLETE GOD,or mor posibly it  
dr )erly recod~~ing~~ of Trinity  
tu gist =this suprem B,this Almy G seeks 2do sumth in lif of  
faithful serv as desr~~ib~~ by word="He tried this Abraham"  
word tried is use in contex of sumth atempt,or an adventur,  
or 2try sumthin out on Ab  
it isnt a trik,nor is it ask Ab 2do sumth agin his wil  
G is plac B4 Ab th/chanc 2prov whthr G mos import thing lif  
Ab is ask 2tak=Thin only Son Isac" & sac him 2-God  
author Heb writ it Ab's "only Bgotten son"  
Altho Ab fathr Ish,it was Isac who was son of prom fr/G  
in this respec writr Heb mak compar 2-G & Ab=G had only 1 Bgotn  
Son & at this pt in lif so did Ab  
Yet,this 1 son G was deman B sac 2-Him & thus we can C in this  
Shadowy Portent wat G was go 2do much latr tim in histry  
vs 2-G direc Ab tak son & travl & so read=vs 3-9  
1st Ab travl 3days 2get 2destinatin & here is ~~xxxxxx~~ similarty  
that Js was in th/grav 4-3days  
next we C Ab inform son G wil provid lamb 4sac-& lnce agin C

But ther othr Shadwy Portent fnd this Scrip as wel  
Mt Moriah is wher city Jeru was bilt & it on 1 of thoz hills  
outsid of Jeru cal=Golgotha/Calvary that Js Son of G was offr  
as sac 4all mank  
it Bliev plac wher Ab bilt altr & did evrth G ask him 2do con-  
cern this sac was same site on wh/Js crucifixin tuk plac  
)cant B certin this,but saf assumptin sinc G duz things in  
this mannr  
Anpthr pt concern age Isac this tim=we dont kno exac age,but it  
Bliev by many Bib scholrs,Isac was grown man wen this tuk plac  
it anyones ges concern this,but bear in mind 1st of all=Isac  
cary wood aftr donky park at bottom of hil=lik Js cary cros  
then he quest absenc of lamb & wen eviden no lam & fathr mak  
all neces preps,Isac prob Bcam littl suspicious  
& wen Ab Bgin ty him up 2put on altr Isac knu he was th/lamb  
But notic,Isac was obed & ther no mentin refusl 2go long w/program  
at this pt  
Many Bib scholrs Bliev Isaac bout 33yrs age this tim & trus fath  
completly & agin here simlarty tween Isac/Js this pt.  
But pt all this,othr than fac Ab had faith is that Ab lk 2-G 2do  
sumth wh/nevr hapn up 2this pt  
authr Heb sumup in 11:19=READ  
he say in sum way Ab mus hav Bliev if G actul deman lif of son  
in sac,G wud sumhow eithr bring bak fr/ded or tak Isac 2hvn  
wher Ab wud C him wen he died  
ther mus hav bin Blief in a resurectin that Ab held  
authr Heb pt out Ab receiv son bak fr/jaws deth & this was lik a  
FIGURE wh/ment pictur of that wh/tuk plac in persn Js Xp  
at th/pt wher Ab was redy 2plung knif in2 son,G provid sub with  
ram caut in thicket  
this pictur of Js as sub 4all mank  
Is was prom of th/seed & fr/him & thru him,at much latr tim  
ther wudB complet fulfilment by Js Xp  
G want man 2C this B4 He did it in histry  
(Ilus Blievrs in Russia & soldiers as fellow Blievrs=Obedient)  
Ab had faith,but he was completly in obed 2 G also  
it taks mor than jus faith 2B a folowr of Js  
Obed deman we seek 2chang our livs & liv as He asks  
How obed R U 2 th/Lord?  
Wil U tak up Ur cros & folo Him & 4sak all 2B His?  
That is wat He ask of ea of us & this is invitatin 2all who  
wud folo Him.  
Come,follow Me! Wil U?

(Ilus city slickrs & Mule Egg)

Heb 11:17-18 & relat 2 Gen 21 & 22

vs 19 - Resurrection & Ab

Figure - picture

provid sub 4-Abe

G provid sub 4man - Js

G want man 2C wat wud do, B4 did it in hōstry

(Illus Blievrs in Ruśsia & soldiers)

Vs 2- direc 2travl & read vss 3-9

Cps:

3 days travel

G wil provid lamb

Mt Moriah - Clavary/Golgotha in Jeru

Age of Isaac

Heb 11:19 & resurrection

Gen 22:1-2

bakground & seeming contradictin

Gen 21:12 - Scrip grnds 4wif 2nag

Gen 22:1 - Heb=~~TM~~ AND THE ELOHIM, HE TRIED THIS AB

THE God- the only one

HIM = plural & Bcum Complete God - Trinity

Tempt/Tried=sumth atempt, an adventur, 2try sumthing

Thine only son - Heb say - only Bgottn son

Vs 2 direc 2travl & READ 3-9

Cps:

3days travel

G wil provid lamb

Mt. Moriah & Calvary/Golgotha in Herusalem

Age of Isaac

Heb 11:19 & resurrectin



"Shadowy Portents: Seed"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-19

(Illustration of city slickers and "Mule egg")

The aged patriarch Abraham must have felt somewhat like this when he perceived that God wanted him to sacrifice his son Isaac. The author of Hebrews tells us, "By faith Abraham when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'That in Isaac shall thy seed be called.'" Hebrews 11:17-18

The writer is relating that which is recorded in two places in the Old Testament book of Genesis. Moses records this information in the 21st and 22nd chapters. The 22nd chapter of Genesis begins by telling us, "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, 'Abraham:' and he said, 'Behold, here I am.' And He said, 'Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.'" verses 1-2.

Here we see the instructions of God to Abraham concerning this sacrifice which God is asking Abraham to make. But in light of what has transpired before all of this, these instructions may well have appeared to be a complete contradiction to Abraham. For instance, we read in ~~the 12th verse of the 11th chapter~~ the 21st chapter about a promise which God made to Abraham. The background up to this point was that God had promised a son to Abraham and Sarah and that son ~~had appeared on the scene in the~~ supposedly appeared on the scene in ~~the~~ the person of Isaac. But there was another son on the scene, born to Sarah's maid Hagar, which Sarah had conspired to bring into the world by mating her husband Abraham with her servant Hagar. This son, Ishmael, now poked fun at young Isaac which provoked Sarah and she demanded that Abraham remove both Hagar and Ishmael from the family. So it is that we learn from the 12th verse that God speaks to Abraham, "And God said unto Abraham, 'Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.'" ~~the~~

In other words God is telling Abraham to listen to the griping of his wife and now we know that a wife has Scriptural grounds to "nag." But Abraham had been told that from Isaac the promise God had made to him would be fulfilled. Isaac was to be the start of that seed of Abraham which would make of him a great nation and through whom all the world would be blessed. But now a number of years have passed and there seems to be some discrepancy, at least if we look at this from the completely human standpoint.

But fortunately, Abraham looks at all of this through the eyes of one whose faith is in his God. In the 1st verse of the 22nd chapter we read that after the preceeding things had taken place, "God did tempt Abraham." In the original Hebrew, that portion of Scripture reads, "And The Elohim, He ~~did~~ tried this Abraham." From this we can note several things. First, the definite article is there and that denotes this is "THE" God. But the word Elohim is plural and the phrase then takes on The Complete God, or more possibly it denotes an early recording of the Trinity here. The gist of this is that this Supreme Being, this Almighty God seeks to do something in the life of this faithful servant as described by the words, "He tried this Abraham." The word "tried" is used in the context of something attempted, or an adventure, or to try something out on Abraham. It isn't a trick, nor is it asking



Abraham to do something against his will. God is placing before Abraham the chance to prove whether God is the most important person in his life.

Abraham is asked to take, "Thine only son Isaac," and sacrifice him to God. The author of Hebrews writes of this as Abraham's, "only begotten son." Now although Abraham was the father of Ishmael, it was Isaac who was the son of promise from God. In this respect, the writer of Hebrews is making a comparison to God and Abraham. God had only One Begotten Son and at this point in his life, so did Abraham. Yet, this one son, God was demanding be sacrificed to Him. Thus, we can see in this ancient time the "Shadowy Portent," of what God was going to do at a much later time, in history.

God directs Abraham to take this son to "The land of Moriah; and offer him for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." So we read, (read verses 3 through 9). We see first that Abraham traveled for three days to get to his destination. Here is the similarity that Jesus was in the grave for three days. Next we see that Abraham informs his son that God will provide the lamb for the offering. Once again we see the fulfillment of this in the person of Jesus Christ, whom John the Baptist called, "The Lamb of God."

But there are other "Shadowy Portents" found in this Scripture as well. Mt. Moriah is where the city of Jerusalem was built. It was on one of those hills outside of Jerusalem called Golgotha, or Calvary that Jesus the Son of God was offered as a sacrifice for all mankind. It is believed that the place where Abraham built the altar and did everything that God had asked him to do concerning this sacrifice was the same site on which the crucifixion of Jesus took place. We can't be certain of this, but it is a safe assumption since God does do things in this manner.

Another point concerns the age of Isaac at this time. We don't know his exact age, but it is believed by many biblical scholars that Isaac was a grown man when this took place. It is anyone's guess concerning this. But bear in mind that first of all Isaac carried the wood after the donkey was parked at the bottom of the hill. Then he questioned the absence of the lamb. When it became evident that there was no lamb and his father was making all of the necessary preparations, Isaac probably grew a little suspicious. And when Abraham began to tie him up to put him on the altar, Isaac knew full well that he was the lamb. But notice, Isaac was obedient and there is no mention of his refusal to go along with the program at this point. Many Biblical scholars believe that Isaac was about 33 years of age at this time and he trusted his father completely. Again, there is the similarity between Isaac and Jesus at this point.

But the point of all of this other than the fact that Abraham had faith, is that Abraham looked to God to do something which had never happened up to this time. The author of Hebrews sums it up in the 19th verse of the 11th chapter by stating, "Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." The author is saying that in some way, Abraham must have believed that if God actually was demanding the life of his son in a sacrifice, God would somehow either bring him back from the dead, or take Isaac to heaven where Abraham would see him when he died. There must have been a belief in a resurrection that Abraham held. The author of Hebrews points out that



Abraham received his son back from the jaws of death and this was "like a figure," which meant it was a picture of that which ~~was~~ took place in the person of Jesus Christ. At the point where Abraham was ready to plunge the knife into his son, God provided a substitute with the ram caught in the thicket. This was a picture of Jesus as the substitute for all mankind. Isaac was the promise of the seed and from him and through him, at a much later time there was the complete fulfillment by Jesus Christ. God wanted man to see this before He did it in history.

(Illustration of believers in Russia and Soldiers who were "fellow-believers")

A house church in a city in the Soviet Union received one copy of the Gospel of Luke, the only Scripture most of these Christians had ever seen. They tore it into small sections and distributed them among the body of believers. Their plan was to memorize the portion they had been given, then on the next ~~day~~ Lord's Day they would meet and redistribute the Scriptural sections.

On Sunday these believers arrived inconspicuously in small groups throughout the day so as to not arouse the suspicion of KGB informers. By dusk they were all safely inside, windows closed and doors shut. They began singing a hymn quietly but with deep emotion. Suddenly, the doors were forced open and in walked two soldiers with loaded automatic weapons, at the ready. One shouted, "All right -- everyone line up against the wall. If you wish to renounce your commitment to Jesus Christ leave now!"

Two or three left quickly, then another. After a few seconds, two more.

"This is your last chance. Either turn against your faith in Christ," he ordered, "or stay and suffer the consequences." Another left. Finally two more in embarrassed silence with their faces covered slipped out into the night. No one else moved. Parents with small children trembling beside them looked down reassuringly. They fully expected to be gunned down, or, at best, to be imprisoned.

After a few moments of complete silence, the other soldier closed the door, looked back at those with their hands up who were standing against the wall and said, "Keep your hands up -- but this time in praise to our Lord Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters. We, too, are ~~the~~ Christians. We were sent to another house church several weeks ago to arrest a group of believers --" The other soldier interrupted, " -- but, instead, we were converted! We have learned by experience, however, that unless people are willing to die for their faith, they cannot be fully trusted."

Abraham had faith, but he was completely obedient to God also. It takes more than just faith to be a follower of Jesus Christ. ~~What does it take?~~ Obedience demands that we seek to change our lives and live as He ~~demands~~ asks. How obedient are you to the Lord? Will you take up your cross and follow Him and forsake all to be His? That is what He asks of each of us, and this is His invitation to all who would follow Him? Come, follow Me.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 13, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: David Brinker and John Penrod

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude "Prelude" by Bach  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 268 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Most merciful Father, we confess  
that we have sinned against you and against our fellow-  
men. We have followed too closely the pathway that was  
easy, and we have done whatever we desired. We have  
failed to praise you with our words and deeds, and we  
have ignored the needs of others. Even though we have  
known your will for our lives, we have failed to follow  
it. Grant your mercy unto us, O Father, as we express  
our regret for that which we have done. Receive us again  
into your fold, as we would endeavor to go forth serving  
you more faithfully, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 254 "Near the Cross"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Ten Thousand Angels"

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Do Lord / He's Got The Whole World"- Youth Choir

Scripture: Genesis 32: 24-28

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Ruler"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 92 "The Solid Rock"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "Fanfare for the King"

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Marge Smiley in memory of Loved Ones.

Mr. Ray Isherwood will greet our members and guests at  
the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Alta Kradel, Lois Stokes, Marilyn  
Snyder and Vivian Bolam.

Attendance last Sunday was 135 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Judy Bowser.

Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margarets in Pitts.

TUESDAY - VBS Workshop Seminar at 7:30 P.M. at St. John's  
Reformed Church on Rt. 68 West. We urge those involved  
with VBS for this year to try to attend.

THURSDAY - Practice at 8:00 will begin for our special  
"Day of Song and Praise" to be held in June. We are  
looking for a few more voices to help with this. If  
you would like to join for this special day, come join  
us on Thursday evening.

FISH FRY held this past Wednesday was a big success. Now  
we look forward to the next one on Wednesday March 23.  
We need lots of help, cakes and pies for that day. Take  
a minute now and let Helen, Phyllis, or Dick know what  
you can do for us. We served 350+ and would like to  
do the same or more for the next one. We also would  
like to say thanks to those who helped us out in any  
way this week.

Palm Sunday we will take new members into the congregation.  
If you or someone you know would be interested please  
let the office know.

Easter Eggs will be ready for pick up on March 20th after  
the service.

EASTER LILY ordering time is here. If you would like to  
purchase one in memory of someone, please drop a note  
in the offering plate. Price is \$5.45 each.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire.



"Shadowy Portents: Ruler"  
 Scripture: Genesis 32:24-28  
 (Ilus 2womn talking bout roots, & 1 a complet snob)  
 (Ilus British lawyr want 2play golf at exclusiv country club)  
 Snobry cumms all shapes/sizes & knows no boundrys, but porph Isa  
 had a cur 4it  
 he wrot chap 51:1- READ  
 )says,paraphras of corse,"Luk 2Ur actul roots,go 2 th/very de  
 depths of wher U cam from & that sobr advic 4anyl lik 2put airs  
 That kind of think wud hav bin sobr indeed 2man nam Jacob,son of  
 Isaac,& grandson of Ab  
 it not so much fac Jac cam fr/impovrish bakgr,quit oposit  
 But it was fac fr/1st breth he tuk he was markd man  
 his mothr/fathr gav him nice name of=Deceiver  
 Thats wat Jac actuly ment - Deceiver,how wud U lik 2B givn a  
 nam that imply U wud act in questinbl mannr?  
 Van U pictur how Jac felt wen mothr cal him 4suppr?  
 Deceiver,its tim 2cum hom now  
 Whethr his nam had bearing on his actins we dont kno,but we do  
 kno he liv up 2nam very wel  
 He trik his broth out of birthrite,trik his fathr 2Bliev he was  
 Esau,& this in turn trik Esau out of paternal blessing was his  
 He escap 4his lif,& B4 return hom,trik his fathr-in-law  
 Wen near hom want 2mend fencees & sent word Esau he cum hom  
 jus in case Esau hold grudg,Jac,ol deceivr he was,seprat self  
 fr/evrl includ wivs,childrn & spend nite alone  
 But Jac not alon & readvs 24  
 proph Hosea identfy man as angl in 12th chap his proph  
 Jac bin wrestl w/gilt of lif 4quit few yrs & so wen litrlly  
 involv wrestl ma ch,held on 4dear lif  
 in this match prob fear 4very lif  
 vs 25=man wrestl w/cud not ovcum Jac & only way abl brk grip.  
 v 2dislocat his hip=vs 25-READ  
 vs 26=why wud brk day hav anyth do w/outcum this match?  
 Ansr=Jac actul wrestl w/G & cud not C-God & liv  
 Its tru this was humn manifestatin of G & this cal=THEOPHANY  
 & this simply means a physicl manifestatin/apearanc of G  
 In OT thez apears wer actuly pre-incarnate apers of Js  
 G in 2nd persn of Trinty,apear humn form this tim & Jac wrestl  
 vs 26b=Jac want 2B bles  
 vss 27-28=he got mor than bles than anticipat  
 Nu nam Jac receiv was=YIS-RAW-ALE & ment=He wil rule as God  
 Here this man deceiv fathr,brothr,fathr-in-law,& had liv lif  
 of deceptin  
 & at long las,G brot 2pt wher had 2deal w/himself  
 in his encountr w/th Lord,he saw all his lif Bhin him,  
 he cam 2this phy strugl w/his lif a shambles  
 he knu wat he had bin,he mus hav felt care,concern,worry of  
 "Wher wil it all end?"

As Bgan wrestl he thru self in2 strugl so complet, Lord dislocat  
 hip  
 whethr he then crippl 4lif we no kno,we nevr told  
 but do kno his lif completly turn rnd  
 he no longer th/old Jacob  
 He was th/New YIS-RAW-ALE-he who had powr w/G & w/men,who had  
 pr' iled  
 Hw who wud now rul as G wh/his name imply  
 but 2C this is 2C only part of pictur  
 in this ancient ilus Jac only ~~2axxax~~ Shado of that wh/2cum  
 He sho pictur how man cud ovrcom sin & get rite w/G  
 But that pictur was unabl 2B fuly complet until man nam=Js cam  
 in2 worl many yrs latr  
 Wen He was born was givn very simpl nam=Js wh/mean=G is Salvatin  
 But was not discovr until He dy that He not simply man,but was  
 G in th/flesh  
 All His erthly lif He strugl agin sin & at end of lif had pre-  
 vail  
 He had wrestl lik Jac & He had prevailed  
 This gav Him nam chang fr/simply Js of Naz,2-Js Xp  
 He was,& is,& always wilB=Js th/Mesiah,th/Delivrer of mankind  
 (Ilus Alexandr th/Grt & unruly soldier)  
 Thoz who Bcum folows of Js Xp R givn th/nam Xpian  
 that was lnce a derogtory term & ment basicly=Littl Xp's  
 it was use as slur/putdwn of peren  
 2bear nam Xpian is 2infer a chang of nam  
 it means one who has wrestl w/lif,& agin sin,& has pprevail thru  
 Js Xp  
 How tru duz that nam ring in our livs?  
 Is it jus a nam or titl we assum?  
 Or duz it truly identfy who we R? & wat we R?  
 I t is jus a titl & means nuth,then we mus eithr chang our  
 conduc,or chang our name  
 Do U own or poses that nam in Ur lif?  
 I invit U 2~~axxax~~ U 2 tak Him in Ur lif as Ur Lord & Savior  
 Js stans at dor of Ur hart,knok 2gain entranc  
 Wil U let Him in & receiv Him 2day?

"Shadowy Portents; Ruler"

Scripture: Genesis 32:24-28

(Illustration of two women talking, and one was a complete snob)

Two women were talking while sharing a table ~~at~~ during lunch at the Country Club. The one was a noted society person and the other was the wife of a noted Jewish doctor. The society matron remarked, "Did you know I can trace my ancestry back to the Mayflower?" The Jewish woman said, "Is that so?" "Yes," she purred, "I come from a long line of influential people in America. But how far can you trace your ancestry?" The Jewish woman answered, "Mine go back to that other boat." The society matron ~~asks~~ puzzled by her answer asked, "What other boat was there beside the Mayflower?" And the Jewish lady answered, "The ark."

(Illustration of British lawyer wanting to play golf at exclusive Club)

A distinguished British lawyer who was an avid golfer had always desired to play at a rather exclusive 18 hole course outside of London. One day he was driving by and it was such a gorgeous day he decided he would stop in to see if he could play. Approaching the desk he asked the club secretary if it were possible he could go out on the course. The secretary asked, "Member?" To which he replied, "No sir." "Guest of a member?" "No, sir. ~~Then~~ The answer came back, "Sorry." As he started to leave he saw a distinguished and well known man seated in the lounge reading the London Times. He went over to him and said, "I beg your pardon Lord Boring, My name is Higinbottom of the law firm Higinbottom, Higinbottom and Schwartz. Would it be possible to play 18 holes of this beautiful course as your guest?" To which Lord Boring asked, "Church?" "Church of England sir, as all my family is." "Education?" "Eton, and Oxford, Sir." "Sports?" "Rugby, and a bit of tennis, and on the 1950 rowing team." "Service?" "Brigadier in the Queens black guard." "Campaigns?" "Dunkirk, El Amein, and Normandy." "Decorations?" "Victoria Cross and Knight of the Garter." "Languages?" "French, German and a bit of Greek." Lord Boring considered this for a moment, then nodded to the club secretary, and said, "Nine holes."

Snobbery comes in all shapes and sizes and knows no boundaries. But the prophet Isaiah had a cure for it. He wrote in the 51st chapter of his prophecy in the 1st verse, "Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence you are digged."

He says, paraphrased of course, "Look to your actual roots. Go to the very depths of where you came from." That's sobering advice to anyone who likes to put on airs. That kind of thinking would have been sobering indeed to a man named Jacob, the son of Isaac, and the grandson of Abraham. It wasn't so much the fact that Jacob came from ~~from~~ an impoverished background, quite the opposite. But it was the very fact that from ~~his~~ the first breath that he took, he was a marked man. His mother and father gave him the nice name of "Deceiver," That's what Jacob actually meant. "Deceiver" how would you like to be given a name that implied you would act in a questionable manner? Can you picture how Jacob would have felt when his mother called him home for supper? "Deceiver, it's time to come home." Whether his name had a bearing on his actions we don't know. But we do know the he lived up to the name rather well. He tricked his brother out of his birthright, then he tricked him out of the paternal blessing which was supposed to be his. These actions caused him to flee for his life. Then he got homesick after he had tricked his father-in-law and decided to come back. When he neared home he ~~heard that his brother was coming home and~~ wanted to mend his fences and so he sent word to Esau that he was coming home. And just in case Esau was still holding a grudge, Jacob, (old deceiver that he was), separated himself from everyone including his wives and children, and went to spend the night alone. But Jacob was not alone and we read in the 24th verse, "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled ~~with him~~ a man with him until the breaking of the day."



The prophet Hosea identifies this man as an angel in the 12th chapter of his prophecy. Jacob had been wrestling with the guilt of his life for quite a few years and so when he was literally involved in a wrestling match he held on for dear life. In this wrestling match he probably feared for his very life. The 25th verse tells us that the ~~angel~~ man he was wrestling could not overcome Jacob and the only way he was able to break his grip was to dislocate his hip, (read verse 25). In the next verse we receive the answer as to who this man was, for we read, "And he said, let me go for the day breaketh." Now why would the breaking of day have any bearing on the outcome of this match? The answer is, that Jacob was literally wrestling with God and he could not see God and live. It's true this was a human manifestation of God and this is called "A Theophany." Which simply means a physical manifestation or appearance of God. In the Old Testament, these appearances were actually the "pre-Incarnate" appearances of Jesus. God, in the second person the Trinity, appeared in ~~human~~ human form at this time and Jacob wrestled with Him.

Jacob informed this man, (not knowing with whom he wrestled), that he would not release him until he received a blessing from Him. And Jacob did receive ~~xx~~ much more of a blessing than he had anticipated and we read, (read verses 27 & 28). The new name which Jacob was given was YIS-RAW-ALE and it meant, "he will rule as God." Here was this man who had deceived his father, his brother, his father-in-law and had lived a life of deception. At long last he had been brought to the ~~point~~ point by God where he had to seriously deal with himself. In his encounter with the Lord, he saw all of his ~~life~~ life behind him. He came to this physical struggle with his life a shambles. He knew what he had been; he must have felt the care, and concern, and worry of "where will it all end?" And as he began to wrestle, he threw himself so completely into the struggle that the Lord dislocated his hip. Whether Jacob was now a cripple for life, we are never told. But we do know that his life was completely turned around. He was no longer the old Jacob. He was the new YIS-RAW-ALE, "He who had power with God and with men, who had prevailed," verse 28B. He ~~was~~ who would now rule as God, which his very name implied.

But to see only this is to see only a part of the picture. In this ancient illustration, Jacob was only a "Shadow" of that which was to come. He showed the picture of how man could overcome sin and get right with God. But that picture was unable to be fully completed until a man named Jesus came into the world many years later. When He was born, He was given the very simple name of "Jesus" which means simply, "God is Salvation." But it was not discovered until He died that He was not simply a man, but was God in the flesh. All of His earthly life He struggled against sin, and at the end of His earthly life He had prevailed. He had wrestled, like Jacob, and He had prevailed. This gave Him the name change from simply being "Jesus of Nazareth," to "Jesus Christ." He was and is, and always will be, Jesus, the Messiah, the deliverer of mankind.

(Illustration of Alexander the Great and unruly soldier with name Alexander)

At one time in the army of Alexander the Great there was an unruly soldier. He was almost constantly in some kind of trouble. He fought with his fellow-soldiers, he refused to obey orders, and no amount of punishment seemed to change him. Finally, in desperation his commanding officer brought him to his commander-in-chief, Alexander the Great. The General was seated when the soldier was brought into his presence. He looked at the soldier and

said, "You are charged with being an extreme disciplinary problem for everyone concerned. I see that you have refused to work, you have refused to obey orders, and in general you are a poor excuse for a soldier. What do you have to say for yourself?" The soldier answered, "Nothing, Sir." The General asked, "What is your name soldier?" The soldier answered very quietly, "Alexander, Sir."

At this, Alexander the Great stood up and stepping in front of the soldier, asked him, "WHAT is your NAME, soldier?" The soldier stammered, "Alexander, Sir." And at this, the General said, "Soldier, either change your conduct, or change your name."

Those who become followers of Jesus Christ are given the name "Christian." That was once a derogatory term. ~~It means one who has wrestled with life and against sin, and has prevailed through Jesus Christ.~~ It meant very basically, "Little Christs," and was used as a slur or a putdown of the person. To bear the name "Christian" is to infer a change of name. It means one who has wrestled with life and against sin, and has prevailed through Jesus Christ. How true does that name ring in our lives? Is it just a name or title we assume? Or does it truly identify what we are? If it is just a title and means nothing, then we must either change our conduct, or change our name.

Do you own or possess that name in your life? I invite you to take Him in your life as your Lord and Saviour. Jesus stand at the door of your heart knocking to gain entrance. Will you let Him in and receive Him today?



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 20, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Toni Jo Patsy

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Proclamation Hymn No. 109 "Whiter Than Snow"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem to die for our sins. We confess we have not hailed you in the world with praise. From brief faith that fades, from enthusiasms that fizzle out, from hopes we parade but do not pursue, have mercy upon us. Forgive us God; and give us such trust in your power that, in every city, we may live for justice and tell of your lovingkindness; for the sake of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 281 "Go To Dark Gethsemane"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Jesu, Blessed Jesu"

Scripture: Genesis 50: 15-21

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Servitude"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 84 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in honor of their anniversary. Wendy Norman and Kelly Mangel will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

The Youth will be serving as Ushers for today.

Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Judy Bowser.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margaret's in Pitts.

> WEDNESDAY - Fish Fry will again be held at Lunch and for dinner. We need help as well as cakes and pies for dessert. Please see Helen, Phyllis or Dick, and volunteer now.

THURSDAY - Practice will begin for our special "Day of Song and Praise" to be held in June. We are looking for a few more voices to help us out. If you would like to join us for this special, come join us for practice at 8:15

> Palm Sunday we will take new members into the church. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining, please let the office or Pastor know.

Easter Egg orders are ready for pick up in the kitchen today immediately following the service. Please see Helen, Phyllis or Dick.

Easter Lily order time is here. If you are interested in purchasing one, please drop a note in the offering plate. The price is \$5.45 each. Please be sure to include who the lily is in memory of. Order deadline is March 27th.

We need cool whip bowls for this week. Please bring them in as soon as you can. These are for the Easter Egg Hunt for the Easter Seal Society children on March 26th.

We need your reservations for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast.

If you plan to attend give us your name, the number of people attending. We also need rolls for the breakfast. If you can bring rolls, please let us know. Drop the note in the offering plate or see the office.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

"Shadowy Potents: Servitude"  
 Scripture: Genesis 50: 15-21  
 (Ilus plan bakfire-revenge)  
 G tel us in Scrip=Bhol, Ur sins wil find U out  
 Lf has way of pruv this ovr & ovr agin  
 (Ilus murrer caut by chance fingerprint selectin)  
 A r r bros cary gilt wat had dun 2ther yngr bros w/them 4-13yrs  
 R hate Bcz fav son of fathr  
 so wen tend F's sheep & bros cam, seiz, strip of coat, & sel slav  
 2covr crim, kil goat, sprinkl blud, tel fathr he kil wil beast  
 But bros sold as slav in Egrp ros 2powr & 2nd only 2 king  
 Bcz provisin mad 2circumven ensue famin by this man, Egrp place  
 wher fud cudB purchas  
 so was by needesty bros man cum 2Egrp & wer confr by him  
 man of cors was Josep & bros no know 4periud tim  
 but aftr tearfl reunion, bros/Fathr cam 2liv Egrp  
 Jac dy & lnce agin nasty deed dun by bros agin Jos rear uglyhe  
 "Wat if Jos turn on us now dad ded?" is quest on minds  
 "Perhap he jusB nice whil dad aliv, so no disturb" they reasn  
 vs 15=tel us all this  
 vs 16A=bros mak sur Jos not 2clos 2seiz & send mesngr  
 they mak sur covr all bases & aftr all, bin taut by mastr at  
 deceptin=Jacob=th/Deceivr nam ment  
 He outmanuvr evrl  
 vs 16B-17A=mesngr gav report & wat reactin Jos?  
 did he seek hav ares & throw in2 prsn or wors?  
 vs 17B=Jos wept  
 & evidently bros wer at plac cud C/kno wat tak plac & we read=  
 vs 18= lk how th/mity hav falln  
 thp2z who wer oldr/wisr & lk dwn nos at yngr bros, now regard  
 him as abuv them  
 vs 19B-20=Jos sho wisdm far Byon yrs  
 knu wat had takn plac & insted of C self as victm of bros  
 & 2l deeds, saw G had usesitu ~~shaking~~ 2rescu many peo fr/starv &  
 deth  
 Here viv pictur wat G wud do in futur tim/plac  
 Jos bin cal most complet typ Xp in all Bibl  
 (Ilus Dr. Harold Wilmington & 2l simlartyd tween Jos/Js  
 Ther R both OT & NT Scrips 2bak thez up=wil suply if anyl want  
 But all pts 2fac G was demonstrat in Jos wat wud do thru Js  
 Evrth Js did was 2sho G's ~~xxx~~ luv 4 His ult creatin  
 but w/ea thing Js did whthr pr/teach/heal it vu w/prejud eyes  
 Thoz who shud hav kno who He was wer chief ofndrs sek deth  
 they Bliev wat they wer do wen hav arest/tried/convic/execut  
 was in bes intrests of peo  
 Lik Jos, Js cud hav sed=vs 20=parphras

2/  
 They thot they do world a favr by get rid pf pest,  
 insted, merly folo G's plan w/out realiz it  
 G ment all this 4 salvatin of mank  
 (Ilus littl girl reunite quarl parent in deth)  
 This pictur wat Js did on cros  
 Savior tuk han sinfl/hatefl humanty & plac in luv hand of G  
 as tuk dy of littl girl 2brink parnts 2gethr. Js dy 2bring  
 all mank bak 2 God  
 Scrip conclud w/words Jos=vs 21A  
 & this wat G say 2all thoz who cum 2Him thru Js Xp  
 He prom 2tak care us, nourish us, & littl l s as wel  
 that His prom 2thoz who turn livs ovr 2Him  
 But G alway giv man choic 4lif,  
 we can eithr tunr 2Him completly, or can seek 2go own way  
 But soonr/latr ther cum tim, wen dawn of wat G dun 4mank thru  
 Js Xp cum 2ea us  
 At that pt can chooz 2ignor it & continu 2strugl in own strng  
 Or, can turn livs ovr 2th Lord & let Him tak chrg  
 Ferhap Ur lif in turmoil; U may seem 2B all mix up  
 may seem hav no wher 2turn  
 But if U wil turn in directin of G & turn Ur lif ovr 2 Him,  
 U wil find wat is missing

### Similarities between Jpseph & Jesus

Dr. Harold Wilmington:

1. Both wer Blovd of tver fathrs
2. Both regard selvs as shepherds
3. Both wer sent 2ther brthrn by ther fathrs
4. Both wer hatd by ther brthrn w/out caus
5. Both wer plotd agin by ther brthrn
6. Both wer sevrly temptd
7. Both wer takn to Egypt
8. Both wer strippd of ther robes
9. Both wer sold 4 th/pric of a slav
10. Both wer bnd
11. Both remaind silen & offrd no defens
12. Both wer falsly acussed
13. Both exper G's presenc thru evrthin
14. Both wer respec by ther jailrs
15. Both wer placd w/2prisnrs, 1 of wh/was latr  
lost, & th/othr saved
16. Both wer arnd 30 wen ther minstry startd
17. Both wer highly exalt'd aftr ther suffrings
18. Both tuk Gentile brides
19. Both wer los 2ther bros 4awhile
20. Both 4gav & restord ther repentnt bros
21. Both wer visitd & honord by all erthly natins



"Shadowy Portents: Servitude"

Scripture: Genesis 50:15-21

(Illustration of plans backfiring - Revenge)

A man noted a classified ad in a newspaper which read, "Mercedes Benz automobile, mint condition. Low mileage, \$50.00." The man thought there must have been a misprint, but he decided to answer the ad. The seller was a middle-aged woman. She showed him the car and it was just like she said. It was several years old, low mileage ~~in~~ and in mint condition. The man said, "It is a beautiful car and I would like to buy it, but the price-\$50.00 - what's the catch?" The woman answered, "There is no catch. You see, my husband is on an extended business trip. I know that he is involved with another woman, but he doesn't know that I know. Three days ago I received a telegram from him. It read, 'sell the car and send the money.' So I am."

God tells us in Scripture, "Behold, your sins will find you out." Life has a way of proving this over and over again. (Illustration of fingerprint system & murderer).

Just this past week there is a good case in point which took place. A new computerized system ~~was being tested~~ of fingerprint identification was being tested. A local sheriff in a town was asked to place into this machine 25 fingerprints he had on file in his office. He only had 24 cards and was told to check ~~on~~ and if possible put in one more. So he took one card, from a stack of prints that had been in the office for sometime. These prints were fed into the machine and the one card he had picked at random, as the fingerprint ~~of~~ which had been taken at the scene of a ~~murder~~ murder committed several years ago. The man with that print was arrested to stand trial for murder.

A group of brothers carried the guilt of what they had done to their younger brother with them for at least 13 years. They had hated him because he was the favorite son of their father. So it was that when he came to where they were tending their father's sheep, they seized him, stripped him of his beautiful robe and sold him as a slave. To cover their crime they killed a goat and splashed the blood of the goat on the robe so they could prove to their father that his son was dead, ~~killed~~ supposedly killed by wild beasts.

But ~~Joseph~~ this brother sold in Egypt as a slave, rose to power and was second only to the king of Egypt. Because of the provisions which were made to circumvent the ensuing famine, ~~Egypt~~ by this man, Egypt was the only place where food could be purchased. So it was that of necessity the brothers of this man had to come to Egypt and were confronted by him. The man of course was Joseph, and his brothers didn't know this for a period of time. But after a tearful reconciliation the brothers and their father Jacob came to live in Egypt. Then Jacob dies and once again the nasty deed which they perpetrated against their brother Joseph rears its ugly head. "What if Joseph now turns on us now that our father is dead?", is the question on their minds. "Perhaps he was just being nice to ~~us~~ so that he wouldn't further ~~disturb~~ disturb our aged father," they reasoned among themselves. ~~And so they~~ ~~explained~~ So it is that we read in our Scripture, (read verse 15).

To make sure that they are not in close proximity to Joseph, making it possible for Joseph to seize them, we read, "And they sent a messenger unto Joseph," verse 16A. They were making sure that they covered all bases. And after all, they had been taught by a master at deception, their father Jacob. Jacob's name meant "deceiver" and they had been witness to how he had outmaneuvered everyone. So the messenger was sent, and we read, the messenger gave the report, "Thy father did command before he died, saying, 'So shall ye say unto Joseph, 'forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of <sup>the</sup> God of thy father.'" verses, 16B & 17A.



And what was the reaction of Joseph? Did he seek to have them arrested and thrown into prison, or worse? The end of the 17th verse merely states, "And Joseph wept when they spake unto him."

Evidently, the brothers were at a place where they could see and know what was taking place, for we read of them, "And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, "Behold, we are thy servants," verse 18.

Look how the mighty have fallen! Those who were older, and wiser, and who looked down their noses at this younger brother, now regarded him as above them. But Joseph, showing a wisdom far beyond his years, said to them, "Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive," verses ~~20-21~~ 19B-20.

Joseph ~~knew~~ knew what had taken place and instead of seeing himself as the victim of his brother's evil deeds, he saw that God had used the situation to ~~bring~~ rescue many people from starvation and death. Here is a vivid picture of what God would do in a future time and place.

Joseph has been called the most complete type of Christ in all the Bible. Dr. Harold Wilmington a noted Biblical scholar writes of 21 similarities between Joseph and Jesus..

Listen to the list of them:

1. Both were beloved of their fathers
2. Both regarded themselves as shepherds
3. Both were sent to their brethren by their fathers
4. Both were hated by their brethren without cause
5. Both were plotted against by their brethren
6. Both were severely tempted
7. Both were taken to Egypt
8. Both were stripped of their robes
9. Both were sold for the price of a slave
10. Both were bound
11. Both remained silent and offered no defense
12. Both were falsely accused
13. Both experienced God's presence through everything
14. Both were rejected by their jailers
15. Both were placed with two prisoners, one of which was later lost, and the other saved.
16. Both were around thirty when their ministry started
17. Both were highly exalted after their sufferings
18. Both took Gentile brides
19. Both were lost to their brothers for awhile
20. Both forgave and restored their repentant brothers
21. Both were visited and honored by all earthly nations.

There are both Old and New Testament Scriptures to back up these 21 similarities. I'll be happy to supply them to anyone desiring them. But it all points to the fact that God was demonstrating in Joseph what He would do through Jesus. Everything that Jesus did was to show the love which God had for His ultimate creation. But with each thing that Jesus did, whether it was preaching, teaching, ~~making~~ or healing it was viewed through prejudiced eyes. Those who should have known who He was, were the chief offenders in seeking His death. They believed that what they were doing when they had Him arrested, tried, ~~and~~ convicted, and executed was ~~for the best interests~~ in the best interests of the people. Like Joseph, Jesus could have said to them, "Ye thought evil against Me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive," verse 20.



They thought they were doing the world a favor in getting rid of this pest. Instead, they were merely following God's plan without realizing it. God meant all of this for the salvation of mankind.

(Illustration of little girl dying and uniting her quarreling parents through it)

The story is told of a little girl whose parents had a miserable marriage and had been divorced, having nothing in common except their affection for the little girl. One day as the little girl was playing in the street she was knocked down by a bus and seriously injured. Taken to the hospital, she was examined by the doctors but was found to be beyond human aid. The parents were called to the hospital and told the bad news. There they stood on either side of the bed looking down ~~at~~ helplessly at the little girl. As they stood there the little girl opened her eyes when she saw them there and tried to smile. Then drawing one arm from under the sheet she said, "Daddy, give me your hand." Turning to her mother she ~~said, "Mummy, give me your hand."~~ stretched out her other arm. "Mummy," she said, "Give me your hand." Then with a final effort of her fast-ebbling strength she drew them close together.

This is a picture of what Jesus did on the cross. The Savior took the hand of sinful, hateful humanity and placed it in the loving hand of God. Just as ~~the dying girl~~ it took the dying of the little girl to bring her parents together, Jesus died to bring all mankind back to God.

Our Scripture concludes with the words of Joseph, "Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones," verse 21A.

And this is what God says to all those who come to Him through Christ. He promises to take care of us and to nourish us and our little ones as well. That is His promise to those who turn their lives over to Him. But God always gives man the choice for his life. We can either turn to Him completely, or we can seek to go our own way. But sooner or later there comes a time when the dawn of what God has done for mankind through Christ comes to each of us. At that point we can choose to ignore it and continue to struggle in our own strength. Or we can turn our lives over to the Lord and let Him take charge.

Perhaps your life is in turmoil; you may seem to be all mixed up and have nowhere to turn. But if you will turn in the direction of God and turn your life over to Him, you will find what is missing.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 27, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Toni Jo Patsy and Mike Brinker

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Congregational Greeting

Joys

\*Processional Hymn No. 595 "Lead On, O King Eternal"

\*Ascription

\*Call to Worship:

**Pastor:** Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye  
lifted up ye everlasting doors; and the King  
of glory shall come in. Who is this King of  
glory? The Lord of hosts He is the King of  
glory.

**People:** The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in  
the tabernacles of the righteous.

**Pastor:** Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the  
Lord.

\*Invocation (In Unison) God of truth and righteousness, we  
praise Thee for the Master who rode in triumph into the  
city of His fathers to challenge their evils. We thank  
Thee that Jesus came, not as a conqueror to destroy,  
but as a Messiah to save. In the spirit of praise and  
reverence, we bow and with our tongues confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord, to Thy glory, our Father, Amen.  
Children's Moment with Bob

Anthem: "The Palms" (Choir will sing through first,  
Congregation will join choir on second singing of  
this anthem as printed here for you.)

O'er all the way, green plants and blossoms gay,  
Are strewn this day in festal preparation,  
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,  
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Sing and rejoice oh blest Jerusalem,  
Of all Thy sons sing thee emancipation,  
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem,  
Brings faith and hope to thee for ever more.

Refrain: Join all and sing, His name declare, let  
every voice resound with acclamation, Hosanna!  
Praised be the Lord! Bless Him who cometh to  
bring us salvation!

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

The Reception of New Members

Anthem: "Lord I Believe In You"

Scripture: John 12: 12-15

Sermon: "Look At That Crowd!"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 345 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Genevieve Nohach and Beverly in loving memory of  
Nickolas Nohach.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Snyder will greet our friends and members  
this morning at the door.

Ushers for today are: Dick Mangel, Don Kingsley, Dick  
Dally and George Pflugh.

Attendance last Sunday was 101 with 13 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Emogene Massey.

Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the  
hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Charlie Penar and Jane Massart in BMH.  
Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margarets in Pitts.

WEDNESDAY - Choir practice will be held at 7:00 P.M.

There will be no Youth Choir practice.

> THURSDAY - Maundy Thursday service with the Lord's Supper  
will be held at 7:30 P.M. in Rehoboth Hall  
followed by the Reception for New Members.

We need cookies for the reception, so if you

would please bring some, let Helen Riemer know.

> FRIDAY - Good Friday service with the Lord's Supper  
will be held at 7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary.

The final results of the Fish Fry are not yet complete, but  
it was a successful day. However, if you liked the fish  
we served, you may want to purchase some of the extra  
that is left over. We have it in the 8 oz. portion size.  
If interested, please see Helen or Dick. We also have  
some frozen french fries if you would like some of them.  
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire.



"Look At That Crowd!"

Scripture: John 12:12-15

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the next to last time in the year prior to His crucifixion. He was probably there for the Feast of the Passover. He had been preaching and teaching as He journeyed to Jerusalem and His arrival in Jerusalem had not gone unnoticed. But ~~xxxx~~ some of those who noticed His arrival were some very unlikely friends. Luke records this event in the 13th chapter of His Gospel and in the 31st verse we read, (Read this verse). These Pharisees were not hostile to Jesus. They were concerned for His safety and warned Him that Herod was out to get Him. Jesus answers that His time is not yet up and He foretells of His ministry, His future life, and His death as Luke tells us in verses 32 & 33, (read these). Following this brief conversation we read of the deep feelings which Jesus had for this so called and named, "City of Peace," (read verses 34 & 35).

Jesus had come to Jerusalem all of His life, year after year for the Feast of the Passover. He had witnessed the commercialization of the Jewish faith,; had seen the indifference of the people; and had witnessed the ungodly actions and teachings of the religious leaders. He was predicting that the religious leaders, the general public, King Herod and ~~xxx~~ all others would not see Him again until ~~xx~~ He came as the promised One they were all looking for. So ~~at year later~~ He ~~had~~ spent 6 days at the home of His friends ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Lazarus, and Mary., and Martha. They had prepared a feast for Him and He had been able to relax with them.

Now it was the next day, Sunday, the first day of the week and Jesus headed from Bethany to Jerusalem. The city was filled with people who had come <sup>to celebrate the</sup> ~~for the~~ Feast of the Passover.

News spread throughout the city that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. John tells this incident very simply by writing, ( read verses 12 thru 15). ~~This was the only time in the Bible that Jesus had graphically predicted that this would take place. He knew that in the prophecy of Zechariah it was predicted that He was to fulfill the role spoken of there. But Jesus was xxxxxxxx showing forth in this triumphal entry that this scene will be repeated when He comes for the second time. There is coming a day in the future when once again Jesus Christ will come to Jerusalem and be acclaimed as "He that cometh in the name of the Lord." It is at that time that every knee shall bow and acclaim Him as the King of Kings. This Palm Sunday which is recorded in Scripture is merely the prelude to the other entry He will make and xxx following that Trimuphal Entry there will not be the need for Him to suffer death once again.~~

Had we been able to be present at that appearance of Jesus riding down the streets of Jerusalem we would have seen an interesting drama as it unfolded. Here in this "city of Peace" were gathered all of the forces which would play such a vital role in the final days of Jesus' life. Picture in your mind if you will that you are watching this parade pass by. It was a parade like any other. True it didn't have marching bands and floats, or motor-cars filled with dignitaries, but it was a parade pure and simple. The pomp and ceremony were there and the enthusiasm of the crowd was at fever pitch. The people lined and crowded the streets to catch a glimpse of the man of the hour. The first ones in that crowd who stand out are the close followers of Jesus. ~~xxxxxx~~ They are walking beside Him and in

back of Him. It is almost as though they were the police provided to escort Him along the parade route. But what was their thinking at this time? How did they perceive this sudden outpouring of acclamation and love? John tells of them very simply in the 16th verse where we read, (read this verse). "Look At That Crowd!" Just look at them and the first group of people you see are the "Perplexed Pupils" of Jesus. They are marching along with Him and they are in a quandry about Him. He had told them He was going up to Jerusalem and there He would be arrested, tried and condemned to death. At this point they didn't know what to expect. But a few days later Jesus had told them what to expect when He no longer was with them. They were heartsick when He told them He was going away. They had seen Him publicly acclaimed as a King on Sunday. Now He was telling them that He was leaving them. So it is that John records a part of that conversation in the 14th chapter and closing that conversation we read ~~xxxxxx~~ starting at the 25th verse, "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

At this time on Palm Sunday and the days following they didn't understand. But after Jesus was gone and the Holy Spirit had miraculously come into their midst and into their individual lives, then they understood. This is the best illustration of how important the Holy Spirit is. Living without the Holy Spirit leaves a certain mystery of God. When the Holy Spirit comes, He becomes the Teacher. He has a tremendous ministry in our lives. He not only indwells the believer but He speaks to the believers heart and life to motivate him to live for the Lord. Every believer should know the power of the indwelling Spirit which is in him from the time that person accepts Christ as his Lord and Saviour. But the average believer doesn't know this or take advantage of it because the average believer has been made to believe by some that the only evidence of the Holy Spirit is to be able to do large things or to speak in some strange tongue. The Holy Spirit speaks to each and everyone of you if you are a believer. But you may be ignoring His voice because you have been hoodwinked into believing you as an average person are incapable of doing anything worthwhile for the Lord. Have you ever had an urging to do something, (something legal and good that is), and you didn't understand why? If you followed through you discovered you did something, or said something that ~~helped someone~~ was worthwhile. If you ignored it, you shut off the Holy Spirit and you didn't realize how God wanted to use you. The disciples of Jesus were His Perplexed Pupils in that crowd on Palm Sunday, but as John tells us when Jesus was glorified they understood completely.

John tells us in the 18th and 19th verses, (read these verses). John is telling us to "Look At That Crowd!" and see the Fickle Followers who were there. They had been near when Jesus had raised Lazarus from the grave; or they were at the site of His feeding of the 5000; or they had seen Him heal someone in a miraculous way. They ~~new~~ knew of what He had done and they were looking for a ~~repetition~~ repetition of things they had heard and seen. John tells us in the 6th chapter of his Gospel that there were disciples of Jesus who deserted Him and walked no more with Him. There are always those who are there for the thrills, the excitement. But when the thrills and excitement die down and life takes on the ordinary they go their own way. These Fickle Followers are the ones who shouted "Hosanna" on Sunday.



and on Friday shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him."

"Look At That Crowd!" as Jesus passes down the street and there you will see the faces of Frustrated Pharisees," and John tells it this way, (read verse 19). These men saw their plot falling apart. They were frustrated in what they had been trying to do. The Jews themselves recognized that there were good and bad Pharisees. We read of some good Pharisees at the Feast of the Passover the year before this Palm Sunday took place. Now ~~in~~ we see the faces in the crowd of the bad Pharisees, and it was the Jews themselves who divided them into seven different classes. There were the Shoulder Pharisees called this because they wore their good deeds on their shoulders and performed them to be seen of men. There was the "wait-a-little-while Pharisees." They could always find a good excuse for putting off until tomorrow a good deed that should be done today. There were the "bruised," or "bleeding Pharisees." No Jewish Rabbi could be seen talking to a woman on the street, not even his wife, mother or sister. But certain Pharisees went even further. They would not even look at a woman on the street; they shut their eyes to avoid seeing a woman; they therefore bumped into houses, and walls, and other obstacles and then showed their bruises as badges of their extraordinary piety. There were the "Hump-backed Pharisees." They walked bent double in a false and cringing humility. There were the "ever-reckoning Pharisees." They were always reckoning their good deeds and striking up a balance-sheet of profit and loss with God. There were the "timid" or "fearing Pharisees." They were ever in fear of the wrath of God, waiting for it to fall upon them or others. Then there were the "God-loving Pharisees." They were copies of Abraham and lived in faith and charity. We are told there may have been six bad Pharisees for every good one. Thus, we can see the "Frustrated Pharisees" in this throng watching Jesus ride by and saying to any and all who would listen, "Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? Behold, the world is gone after Him."

Then John tells us, (read verses 20 through 22). Here we see the "Seeking Sinners." These were Gentile proselytes to Judaism. These are the so called "greeks" of these verses.

"Jesus came to His own," the Jews, "And His own knew Him not," is what John tells us in the very first chapter of His Gospel. Because of this, the Gentiles heard and believed. These were the same ones who heard of the Messiah and came to the disciples Philip and said, "Sir, we would see Jesus."

They believed in Him and wanted to see Him and hear Him, and they took Him as their Saviour. This parade was not just a passing thing that happened once and was over. It happens over and over again with the same cast of characters. As we live life we still bump into the "Perplexed Pupils" of Jesus Christ, who are searching for life's answers. And there are ~~those~~ those who get them while others continue throughout most of life searching and seeking. There are always the "Fickle Followers" who are there when times are good, but who disappear when the storm begins to rage about them. There are always in the parade of life, the "Frustrated Pharisees" who know all of the rules and regulations and can point out when a believer supposedly steps out of line. And they can't abide anyone who doesn't believe every jot and tittle of the legalistic system they have built into the faith. There are always the "Seeking Sinners." They are the ones who are open to Gospel of Jesus Christ. They do not just make a profession of faith. Instead, they seek to grow and learn on a day by day,

basis. Theirs is not a ~~close~~ close-ended faith. It is alive and vital, and growing and they seek to continue that growth through church attendance, and Sunday School, and Bible study and anything that will give them more spiritual growth.

But face it! Isn't there in each person, ourselves included the secret desire to somehow, somehow, have our name up in lights for something we have done? Where beats within the heart of each man, woman, and child, at sometime, the wish for fame, or fortune, or both.

(Illustration of man receiving degree at university and acclaim with it)

A world famous scientist received an honorary degree at a large university. The president of the university introduced him as ~~ax~~ one of the world's great men. He said, "In fact, I believe I can say, he is one of the world's very great men. In fact," he continued, "I believe it is fitting and proper for me to acclaim him as one of the world's very, very great men." Driving home after the ceremony, he said to his wife, "Dear, how many very, very, great men do you think there are in the world?" She answered, "One less than you think there are dear." One less than you think."

Everyone craves attention; everyone desires to be recognized somehow, no matter what their station in life.

(Illustration of veteran missionary coming home and no formal greeting)

A missionary was returning home after 40 years on the mission field. This was back in the early 1900's and on board that boat was the President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt. He was returning from an African safari where he had been successfully hunting. As the ocean liner was safely berthed at its ~~piers~~ dock in New York harbor, the missionary was standing at the rail looking down at the huge crowd which had gathered. When the gangplank was lowered, all of the ~~stewards~~ began unloading the trunks and luggage of the President. Then finally, the president was escorted down the gangway to the cheers and applause of the crowd, plus the army band playing to honor him. The missionary waited at the rail until all the other passengers had departed and then he reached down and picked up the battered old leather suitcase, ~~his only earthly belongings~~ containing his only earthly belongings and slowly he trudged down the gangplank. The crowds had dispersed and he walked on all alone. It had just started to rain and he pulled up the collar of his worn and frayed overcoat. As he walked along the pier he was overcome by the fact that there wasn't one single person waiting to greet him. He silently spoke to the Lord and he said, "Is this the kind of greeting I receive for all my years of struggle and hard labor? Is this the thanks I get for sacrificing my family, my life for you? Couldn't you have sent just one person to welcome me and to say, "Well done, and welcome home?" And as he continued to trudge along with slumped shoulders and tears of sadness running down his cheeks, he heard the Lord speak to him, and the Lord said, "But my Son, you're not home yet."

Crowds may acclaim many people and some of them may be our friends and acquaintances. We may never hear a "Well done" from anyone. But be aware that there is One who awaits us in eternity and if we have served Him with love and devotion, He will one day welcome us each home and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Jesus received the plaudits of the crowd on Sunday, but look ~~what~~ what they did to Him on Friday. Jesus invites each of us, not to be part of the crowd, but to individually seek His will for our lives. We can't do that on a mob basis. It is done individually, personally. Let us acclaim Him not only today, but every day as He wants.



**PALM SUNDAY**

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

- \* HYMN
- \* BENEDICTION
- \* POSTLUDE

3 MOVA - ACCIDENT  
CHRIS  
RUSS / CATHY  
LAIRD  
KATY  
ABBY FAMILY  
BERNARD

TH TIME WAS RIGHT A YR LATR 4TH/ACLAMATIN OF HIM SO JS SET THIS  
IN MOTION

THIS WAS NOW TH/RT YR, TH/RT WK, TH/RT DAY, TH/RT HOUR  
TH/PROPHS HAD LAID THIS OUT VERY CLEARLY/EXPLICITLY  
TH/STAGE WAS SET & WAT TUK PLAC PRIOR 2THIS SUNDAY HAD SET THAT  
STAGE  
JS HAD DELIBRATLY USED THEZ EVENTS WH/FORCED TH/RELIG LDERS PACT  
FIRST, HE HAD RAISD LAZ FR/THE DED HE HAD PERMIT LAZ 2DY, &  
D DELAY HEALING HE CUD HAV GIVN  
INSTEAD, ARIV AFTR LAZ BIN DED 4DAYS, & THEN RAIS HIM  
THEN MARY HAD ANOINT JS FEET W/PERFUM & JS SAY SHE ANOINT HIM 4  
BURAIL  
THEZ 2EVENTS SET TH/RELIG AUTHORTYS IN MOTIN & NOW 2 3rd EVENT  
WUD TAK PLACE  
THIS WOT JN RELATES AS WE READ IN SCRIP = (READ VSS 12-13)

12 & 13

JN SAYS "MUCH PEOPLE"  
MANY THEZ KNU 1st HAND, OR WITNES RESUR OF LZ & SPRED WORD  
MANY OTHERS WER THER BCUZ RELIG LDERS HAD SPRED WORD  
ALL WANDT 2C THIS JESUS HERD/KNU ABOUT/OR HAD SEEN IN ACTIN  
NOW PICTUR=U R WATCH THIS PARAD GO BY  
NO BANDS/FLOATS, BUT A PARAD PUR & SIMPL  
POMP/CEERONY THER & ENTUS OF CROWD AT FEVR PITCH  
EOPL LINE STREETS & CROWD/CRAVE NEKS 2C THIS MAN OF TH/HOUR  
FIRST: THER THOZ WHO WER CLOS FOLCWS OF JS  
THEY WALK BSID HIM, BEHIND HIM & ALMOS ACT LIK POLIC ESCORT 4HIM  
"LOOK AT THAT CROWD" - JN TELLS US - VS 16=(READ THIS VS)  
HERE R TH/PREPLEXED PUPILS OF JS  
JN SIMPLY SAY THEY NO UNDRST THEN, BUT AFTR H SP CUM THEY DID  
AT TH/LAST SUPPR JS HAD SED TO THEM: "THEZ THINGS HAV I SPOKN  
UN2 U, BEING YET PRESEN W/U. BUT TH/COMFTR, WH/IS TH/H SP,  
WHOM TH/F WIL SEN IN MY NAM, HE SHAL TEACH U ALL THINGS & BRING  
2UR REMEMBEANC MATSCEVR I HAV SED 2U."  
THIS GUD ILU OF WORK OF H SP  
LIV W/OUT H SP LVS MYSTRY OF G, BUT WEN H SP CUM, BCUM TEACHER  
HE INDEML EA BLIEVR & MOTIVAT BLIEVR 2 LIV 4TH/LORD  
BUT AVG BLIEVR NO TAK ADVANTAG OF THIS BCUZ MISTAKN BLIEFS BOUTIT  
MISTAK=MUS SPK IN STRNG TONGUE, OR DO MIRAC THINGS

if this ur blief u bin headwink IN2 UR B INCAPABL OF DO WORTHWHIL  
WORK 4 TH/LORD  
(EXAMPL HOW MOV 2DO SUMTH, NO KNO WHY & IT PRUV WORTHWHIL & THIS  
HOW H SP WORK OUR LIVS )  
VSS 17-19=LOOK AT THAT CROWD # WE C FICKLE FOLLOWRS  
(EXAMPL=SAW LAZ RAIS, FEED 5M, HEALINGS, ALL SORT MIRACULUS THIN(S)  
T' Y SHOUT HOSANNA ON SUNDAY, FRIDAY CRY CRUCIFY HIM  
THEN LUK AGIN AT THAT CROWD & C FRUSTRATED PHARISEES - VS 19  
they frustratd BCUZ JS NO ACT AS THEY WANDT HIM TO  
BUT IN FAIRNES THER WER GUD/BAD PHARISEES & JEWS THEMSELVS  
POINTE THIS OUT & DIVIDED THEM IN2SEVRAL CLASSES  
WE HAD READ OF SUM GUD PHARS TH/YR B4 AT THIS FEAST OF PASOVR  
NOW WE C IN THIS CROWD TH/GRFS OF BAD PHARS  
1=WAT CAL=SHOLDR PHARS WOR GUD DEEDS ON SHOLDRS 2B SEEN BY MEN  
2=WAT=A-WHIL PHARS, PUT OFF TIL 2MORRO WAT CUD DO 2DAY  
3=BRUISD/BLEEDING PHARS-NO JEW CUD SEEN TALK 2WOMEN ON STREET  
NOT EVN WIF/MOTHR/SISTR & THEZ WUDNOT EVN LK AT A WOMAN ON STR.  
THEY SHUT EYES AVOID C WOMAN & THER 4BUMP IN2 HOUSES, BLDGS,  
WALLS, & OTHER OBSTACLS & THEN SHOWD BRUSIES/BUMPS AS BADGES OF  
THER EXTRORDINARY PIETY  
4=HUMP=BAKD-PHARS-WALK BENT DBL IN A FALS CRINGING HUMILITY  
5=EVN=RECKCNING-PHARS-ALWAYS RECKN UP GUD DEEDS & STRIK BALANC  
SHEET OF PROFIT & LOSS W/GOD  
6=TIMID OR FEARING PHARS-EVR IN FEAR OF WRATH OF GOD & WAIT FOR IT  
2FAL ON THEM & OTHERS  
7=GOD LUVING PHARS-COPIES OF ABE & LIV IN FAITH & CHARITY  
WE R TOL THER MAT HAV BIN 6 BAD 2EVRY 1GUD PHARISEE  
THUS WE C FRUSTRATD PHARS IN THIS CROWD, WATCH JS RIDE BY &  
REMARK - (VS 19)  
VSS 20-22=JN TEL US THEZ R "SEEKING SINNERS"  
THEZ "GREEKS" WER GENTILES  
JN TEL US CHAP 1=HE CAM UNPHIS OWN, & HIS OWN KNU HIM NOT  
E 4 OF THIS TH/GENTILES HERD & BLIEVD  
THEY BLIEVD & WANDT 2HEAR HIM & TUK HIM AS THEM SAVIOR  
THIS PARAD NOT JUS PASS THING IT HAPN OVER & OVER W/SAM CHARACTRS  
PERPLEX PUPILS=STIL SERCH 4ANSRS & GO THRU LIF W/OUT FIND THEM  
FICKL FOLOWRS=THEY THER WEN TIMES R GUD, BUT DISAPEAR WEN STORMS  
ARISE  
FRUSTRATD PHARISEES=KNO ALL RULES/REGS & CAN PT OUT WEN A BLIEVR  
STEPS OUT OF LINE & CANT STANTHOZ WHO NO BLIEV EVRY JOT & TITTL  
OF LEGALISTIC SYSTM THEY BILD INTO TH/FAITH  
SEEKING SINNERS=THEY B OPN 2GOSPL OF JS XP, THEY MAK PROF OF FAITH  
& SEEK 2GRO EVRY DAY

(NEXT PAGE)



THERS IS NOT A CLOSE-ENDED FAITH

IT IS ALIV & VITAL & GROWING

THAT GROWTH EVIDENT IN CH/ATENDANC, SUNDAY SKUL, BIBL STUDY  
& ANYTHING THAT WIL GIV MOR SPIRITUL GROWTH

BUT FACE IT!

WNT THER W/IN EA PERSN OURSELVS INCLUDED A SECRET DESIR TO  
SMHW/SUMWAY HAV OUR NAM UP IN LITES 4SUMTH WE HAV DUN?????

THER BEATS W/IN TH/HARTOF EVRY MAN/WOMAN/CHILD AT SUMTIME THE  
WISH FOR FAME OF FORTUNE OR BOTH

EVERYONE CRAVE ATENTIN

EVERYONE DESIRES 2B RECOGNIZED SUMHOW, NO MATTER WAT THER STATIN  
IN LIFE

(ILUS MISSIONARY RETURN HOME & NO FORMAL GREETING)

CROWDS MAY ACLAIM MANY PEOP & SUM THEM MAYB OUR FRENDZ/AQUAINTZ

WE MAY NEVR HEAR A "WELL DUN" FROM ANYONE

BUT B AWAR THER IS ONE WHO AWAITS US IN ETRNTY & IF WE HAV SEI

SERVVD HIM W/LUV & DEVOTIN

HE WIL ONE DAY RECEIV US & WELCUM US HOME & SAY, "WEL DUN  
GUD & FAITHFUL SERVANT"

JS RECEIVD TH/PLAUDITS OF TH/CROWD ON SUNDAY

BUT LK WAT THEY DID TO HIM ON FRIDAY

JS INVITES US NOT 2B PART OF TH/CROWD BUT 2INDIVIDULY SEEK

HIS WIL FOR OUR LIVS

WE CANT DO THAT ON A MOB BASIS

DONT GET CARRIED AWAY WITH TH/HOSANNAS & TH/HALELUJAH'S

JS DIDNT. HE KNU IT WAS A PASSINF THING

WEN WE TALK ABOUT JS IN THIS SEASON UNLESS WE TALK ABOUT HIS  
PASSION & DETH, ALL IS ONLY SUPERFICIAL

1. /US ACLAIM HIM AS LORD & SAVIOR NOT ONLY 2DAY,BUT EVRY DAY  
AS HE WANTS

PERPLEXED PUPILS of Js

FICKLE FOLLOWERS

FRUSTRATED PHARISEES-seven classes

1-SHOLDR PHARS-wor gud deeds on sholdrs 2B seen by men

2-WAIT-A-WHILE PHARS-put off til 2morro wat cud do 2day

3-BRUISED,BLEEDING PHARS-no Jew Rabbi cudB seen talk 2

womn on st-not evn wif/mothr/sistr & thez went 4thr

shut eyes,bump in2 bldgs,wals,etc & then sho bruises

4-HUMP-BAKED-PHARS-walk bent dbl in fals/cring humilty

5-EVR-RECKONING PHARS-Evr reckon gud deeds & strikup

balanc sheet prof/loss w/G

6-TIMID or FEARING PHARS-evr in fear wrath of G,wait 4

it 2fal on them or othrs

7-GOD-LUVING PHARS-copies of Abraham & liv in faith &  
charity

we told ther 6 bad to evry 1 gud Phar

SEEKING SINNERS-Gentile proselytes to Judaism

"Look At That Crowd!"  
 Scripture: John 12:12-15  
 Js was in Jeru 4th nex las tim in yr prio 2 His crucifix & it prol  
 was Feast Passovr  
 had bin preach/teach as jurny 2ward Jeru & not go unnotic  
 Sum thoz who saw wer very unlikely frends=Lk 13:31 tel us  
 Thez Phars wernt hostil 2Js-they concern His safty & warn bout  
 He )  
 Js ansrs=vss 32-33  
 vss 34-35=tel us of Js deep feelings 4-City of Peace  
 Js cum Jeru all lif,yr afr yr 4-Feast;had seen comercilizatin  
 of Jew faith;seen indif of peo;witnes ungodly actins relig ldrs  
 He was predic relif ldrs,gen pub,K Herod & othrs no C until  
 He cam as th/One prom they lk 4  
 So lyr latr,spen 6day w/frends Bethany;had feast,relax & nex day  
 Sunday start 4 Jeru  
 City fil w/peo cum celbrat Feast Passovr  
 news spred thrupt city Js cum Jeru & Jn tel us=vss 12-15  
 Js had graphically predic this wud tak plac  
 He knu proph Zech,but also 4told His 2nd cum that in futur  
 He wudB acclaim as=Th One who cums in Name of th/Lord  
 At that tim,evry knee shal bow & acclaim as K Of K's  
 this Palm Sun only prelud 2 that tim  
 Had we bin abl 2B present that apear of Js wud hav seen intrest  
 drama unfol  
 Here in City of Peac C forces gathr play vital roles final days  
 of Js lif  
 Pictur in Ur mind if U wil that U R wa6ch parad pas by  
 Ther no floats,no bands,no motorcars fil w/celebrtys  
 It was a parad pure & simpl  
 th peo lin sts & ther enthusias at fevr pitch  
 peo lk 4 th/Man of th/hour  
 1st ones 2stan out R th/clos folowrd of Js,they walk w/Him &  
 al...lik polic escort along parad rte  
 But wat was ther think? How pereciv outpour luv,acclaim?  
 vs 16=Jn tel us=Lk At That Crowd! jus lk at them & this 1st grp  
 U C R th Perplexed Pupils of Js  
 They march w/Him & in quandry bout Him;He tol go Jeru arest,  
 try,die & they no know wat 2expec  
 Few day latr Js tol wat expec & they hartsik;saw Him as king &  
 now tel Him He lv them, & Jn tel us=14:25  
 No undrstan on P Sun,but latr did wen Js glorfy  
 this best ilus H Sp & valu/import of Him  
 (Ilus H Sp & individ Blievr,& how shud hav Him smal not big)  
 Jn tel us they Perplex Pupls,but afr C completly  
 vss 18-19=Lk At That Crowd=& ther Fickl Followers  
 bin near wen fed 5M,wen Laz rais,Js heal sik & lk reptitin same  
 Jn tel chap 6-sum thez discip lv Js,walk no mor w/Him

down & ordinary lif tak ovr,they go ther own way  
 Thez fickl follows shout Hosanna on Sun,& Crucify Him,on Fri  
 Lk At That Crowd! & U wil C faces of Frustratd Pharisees=vs 19  
 they frustrat in wat want 2do  
 Jews themselvs tol of gud/bad Phars & ther 7 kinds classes  
 (Ilus of them)  
 v 20-22=Jn tel us of Seeking Sinners & thez wer Gentil proslyt  
 & Judaism  
 thez R th/Grks of thez vss  
 Js cam 2Mis own,& His own knu Him not=Jn say Bgin Gospl & Bcuz  
 this,Gents herd & Bliev  
 thez wer 1's who herd of Mesiah & cam 2discip Phil & sed=21B  
 They Bliev in Him,want 2C Him,hear Him,& tuk as Savior  
 This parad no pas thing hapn only then,it hapn ovr & ovr agin  
 w/same cast of charactrs  
 As we liv lif keep bump in2:  
 Perplex pupils Js Xp who serch 4 lif's ansrs:& ther thoz find  
 whil othrs continu 2serch/seek  
 Fickl Followers who ther wen times gud,& disapear wen times get  
 bad & strom rage rnd them  
 Frustrated Pharisees who kno all ruls/regs & pt wen Blievr step  
 out of line & cant abid anyl who duznt liv up 2 evry jot & titl  
 of legalistic system they hav bilt in2 th/faith  
 Seeking Sinners they R th 1's open 2Gospl of Js Xp;they no jus  
 mak prof of faith but gro,lern,day by day; ther faith no close  
 ended but aliv/vital & gro=Ch,SS,Bibl study,seek sp growth  
 But face it,Rn't ther thoz seek acalim? Isnt ther in ea persn th  
 desir,secret perhap 2hav our names up in lites 4sumth we did?  
 Ther beats w/in hart ea man,woman,child at sumtim th/wish 4fame  
 fortun or both  
 (Ilus man adres as very,very grt man,& wif putdwn)  
 Ev' )crav atentin;evrl desir 2B recogniz sumhow no mattr who/wat  
 (1=us misionary return home & no greeting)  
 Crowds may acclaim many peo & sum them mayB our frends/aquaints  
 We may nevr hear=Wel dun fr/anyl  
 But B awar,ther One who await us in eternty & if hav serv Him  
 w/luv devotin wil one day welcum us home & say=Wel dun gud &  
 faithfl serv  
 Js receiv plaudits of crowd on Sun,but lk wat hapn on Fri  
 Js invits ea us not 2B part of crowd,but 2individ,persnly seek  
 His wil 4our livs  
 Let us acclaim Him not only 2day,but evry day as He wants



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 31, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

+ + + + +  
MAUNDY THURSDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

Prelude

\*Hymn No. 588 "In The Garden"

I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on  
the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice, Is so sweet the  
birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Though the night around me be falling,  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling.

Refrain: And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

\*Call to Worship:

Pastor - When it was evening, He sat at the table with  
His disciples.

People - As they were eating He said, "The Son of man  
goes as it is written of Him."

Pastor - Let us seek Him in confession.

\*Prayer of Confession ( In Unison) Father you sent Your  
Son that we might have life. He invited His disciples  
to share in the evening meal, breaking of bread and the  
pouring of wine. He invited them to receive His gift  
of love and the offering up of Himself; and He invites  
us now to receive that same gift of grace. May we be  
drawn together by the breaking of bread and know the  
joy of sin forgiven, even as we forgive those who sin  
against us. Cleanse us anew and hear us as we confess  
our sins and shortcomings this night. This we pray in  
our Master's name. Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon

Announcements

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Communion Hymn No. 258 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Our thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Institution and Consecration of the Elements

Distribution of the Bread

Distribution of the Cup

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem: "The Old Rugged Cross" ..... Men's Chorus

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18: 15-19

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Prophet

\*Hymn No. 260 "And Can It Be That I Should Gain?"

And can it be that I should gain,  
An interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace!  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For, O my God, it found out me.

Refrain on back page.

"Shadowy Portents: Prophet"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Mos, G's chosn ledr giv 2 Jew peo instrucs need 2tak ther plac in land wh/G giv 2them

all thez things neces 4ther welB

vs 15A=Mos simply repeat wat G tol writ & say

bu' this uttranc had mor far-reach result than peo realiz at th<sup>e</sup> tim

thez peo liv in ancient land & no realiz wat histry mus tak plac

B4 this proph fulfil

folo Mos ther were prophs & prophs, but this prophcy is for only

ONE proph

Lk=it say "A" proph, & that ONE proph was 2B uniqu & dif

vs 15B=this proph 2B fr/ranks, fr/one ther tribes=not a foreignr not a strangr, but one they wud kno

vs 15B=Lik un2 me=lik Moses & Mos add vs 18=read expl

this futur proph will spk 2-G fac 2 fac jus lik Mos did

fr/this peo Bgan realiz this proph was 2B prom One of Israel

Th/Mesiah they wer tol wud cum & was 2B G's anointd ONE

vs 15C=It not matt'r of choic=it Comand

Wat He wudB say was wat G want Him 2say

His words wud B G's words

but G knu man had & exercis frewil 2his detriment

vs 19=G add warning & in othr word, G say wud provid perf proph 4 mank & this proph wudB G's spokesman

watevr this proph wud say, & peo no harkn, G wud chrg that unBlief 2 th/acct of that persn

So here proph of 1900 yrs 2pas B4 it was 2B fulfil

Mos remain ult proph of G Bcuz situ w/G was unique

He spok 4-G & G spok 2him

in livs othr prophs G's revs wer in dreams/visins

but ea was pt 2th final one who was 2cum

J/Elish wer considr highly Bcua did suprnaturl act lik Mos

New peo quest whethr thez wer prom Messiah

but ea pas fr/seen & yrs go by until yng man mak stir in Nazareth

as fam mirac deeds Bgan spred thru Palstin quest arose=Is this 1?

is this 1 seek? Jus who is this man? Is he fr/G? An imposter?

& so was w/fam, ther aros hatred Bcuz relig ldrs & thoz in auth-  
orty no accpt Messiah as cum f/humbl Bgins

& w/this hatred, plans 2hav eliminat set in motin & evently comple-  
& He was slain

But aros fr/ded, seen by many othrs & auhtortys try disprov

Acts 3-read Petr/Jn preach templ-vss 11-19

Petr cum 2meat of mesag & tel peo=vss 20-26

" exp wat G ment wen spok thru Mos in Deut 18

proph was Js Xp, actul G in flesh of Js among men

Js spok words, & thoz words wer mesag of salv=4givnes & etrnal lif

deth & resur giv this 2thoz who accpt as L & Sav of livs

Thoz rejec G no giv salv thru Js Xp & this mesag of Scrip

Do U truly kno Him as L of lif? R we harkn 2wat tel us 4livs?



"Shadowy Portents: Prophet"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Moses, God's chosen leader is giving to the Jewish people the instructions they needed to take their place in the land which God was giving to them. All of these things were necessary for their well-being.

He tells them, ~~(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)~~ "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him ye shall hearken."

Moses was simply repeating what God told Him to say and write. But this utterance had more far reaching results than these people probably realized at this time. These people lived in this ancient land and weren't thinking in terms of history 1900 years away. But this is actually what Moses was saying whether he knew it or not. Following Moses, God sent prophet after prophet, but each of them were merely men speaking for God at a specific time and place. But this promise which Moses is repeating was to be for ONE specific prophet. Notice the words, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee "A" prophet. That is ONE prophet who will be unique and different.

This prophet was to come ~~from~~ "From the midst of thee." In other words, this prophet was to come up from the ranks; from one of their tribes; and that means he would not be a foreigner, or a stranger, but one they would know. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Then they were told, "Of thy brethren, like unto me." This coming prophet would be like Moses. Then in the 18th verse, Moses re-iterates God's words by saying, "I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words, (God's words), in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

This future prophet will speak to God face to face just as Moses did. From this the people began to realize that this prophet was to be the promised One of Israel. The Messiah they were told which would come and was to be God's Anointed One.

The people were instructed by God as Moses recorded in the last phrase of the 15th verse, "Unto him ye shall hearken."

It wasn't a matter of choice. It was a command, "Ye shall hearken." What he would be saying was what God wanted him to say. His words, would be God's words.

But God knew that man had free-will and ~~xxxxxx~~ exercised that free-will to his detriment, So God added a warning as the 19th verse points out, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto My words which he shall speak in My name, I will require it of him."

In other words, God was saying that He would provide the perfect prophet for mankind and this prophet would be God's ~~xxxxxx~~ spokesman. And whatever this prophet would say and the people did not pay attention to those words, God would charge that unbelief to the account of that person.

So here is this prophecy that was given in the ancient past and approximately 1900 years were to pass before it would be fulfilled. Moses remained the ultimate prophet because his situation with God was unique. He was the only one who spoke with God and God spoke to him. In the lives of the other prophets, God's revelations were in visions and dreams. But each one of the prophets was pointing to the final one who ~~xxxxxxxx~~ was to come. Thus it was that prophets such as Elijah and Elisha were considered so highly by the Jewish people because they were able to do supernatural acts much like Moses did. The people questioned if these

two were the promised Messiah. But then they each passed from the scene and the years slowly went by until a young man began to make a stir in and around Nazareth. As the fame of His miraculous deeds began to spread throughout the nation of Palestine, the question repeatedly arose, "Is this the One we seek? Just who is this man? Is He from God? Or is He merely another imposter?" And so it was that with His fame, there also arose a hatred of Him because the religious leaders and those in authority didn't accept the Messiah as coming from such humble beginnings. And with this hatred, the plans to have Him eliminated were set into motion and eventually that plan was completed and He was slain. But His followers told of His resurrection from the dead, and in fact, He was seen by many, many others. But once again, those in authority did everything within their power to have this disproved. So it was that Peter and the other disciples went out into the world preaching and teaching in the name of this Jesus person.

Shortly after Jesus had ascended into heaven, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, Peter and John were in the temple and Peter healed a lame man. Luke records this event in the 3rd chapter of his book of Acts. We read, (read verses 11 through 19).

Then Peter comes to the meat of his message and tells these people, (read verses 20 through 26). Peter has expounded what God meant when He spoke through Moses in that Scripture from Deuteronomy 18. The message was and is that God would send a prophet much, much greater than Moses. That prophet was Jesus Christ, actually God in the flesh living among men. That Jesus spoke God's words and those words were the message of salvation through Him alone.

For anyone who accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior they heard the words of God, and they hearkened to His voice and received salvation, forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. But to those who rejected the words of Jesus Christ, and didn't hearken to Him, God required of them the salvation which could have been theirs. That, basically and simply is what God was saying through Moses in our Scripture for this evening.

In that "Shadowy" past, God revealed the "Portent" of what would take place in the future. We have the completed revelation in God's Word that this prophet foretold, was none other than our Savior Jesus Christ. Do we truly know Him as Lord of our lives? Are we hearkening to what He tells us for our lives?



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 1, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
+ + + + +  
GOOD FRIDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
\*Processional Hymn No. 253 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"  
\*Call to Worship  
Pastor - Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed.  
Let us therefore, celebrate the festival, with  
the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
\*Prayer of Confession  
Pastor - Father, in trembling awe, we recall the broken  
body and wounded flesh, crucified for our sins  
on Calvary's lonely summit.  
All: Lord, You are both bread and wine unto our  
famished souls, sustenance for our pilgrim  
journey.  
Pastor - In trembling awe, we hear the terrifying cry  
that shivers from the darkness of Calvary:  
"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?"  
All: Lord, there are seasons in our lives when we  
have forsaken You. We have left undone that  
which we ought to have done according to Your  
Word because we think too often of ourselves  
rather than of Your sheep whom we are charged  
to feed, nurture, comfort, and liberate.  
Pastor - In trembling awe, we hear again the words spoken  
to friends in the Upper Room: "Do this in  
remembrance of Me."  
All: In remembrance of You, we celebrate Your light  
in our lives, beckoning us to a common witness  
of love, service, and sacrifice.  
Pastor - In trembling awe, we claim our inheritance as  
Your people, called and set apart as disciples  
for our time.  
All: Lord, from the altar of our hearts we offer  
these our requests as we gather at Your table.  
Let this be our prayer as we lift these words  
of confession in the name of Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon  
Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was  
bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement  
of our peace was upon Him; and with His  
stripes we are healed. Amen.

Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Communion Hymn No. 251 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"  
\*Invitation to Communion  
\*Institution and Consecration of the Elements  
Distribution of the Bread  
Distribution of the Cup  
\*Prayer of Thanksgiving  
Anthem: "Lord, Let Me Walk"  
Scripture: Matthew 12: 38-41  
Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Sign"  
\*Hymn No. 270 "I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary"  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
Mrs. Mid Diefenderfer will greet our members and guests  
at the door this evening.  
Nursery will be provided tonight by Mrs. Fanchon Hindman  
and Joy.

> LOVE LOAVES will be dedicated during the worship service  
on Sunday, so please be sure to bring them in.  
There are still some Easter Eggs for sale. You may see  
Helen Riemer after the service if you are interested in  
buying any.

> EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE will be held at 6:30 A.M. We  
sure hope you plan to come join us as we begin our day  
of celebration to the risen Savior. *8:11:00 A.M. Service*

DATES TO REMEMBER:  
April 4 - Benevolence Committee will meet at 7:00 P.M.  
6 - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
11 - VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
11 - Sunday School Teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M.

(Tuesday April 5, 7 to 9 Elders/Deacons Leadership Training classes)

Thursday April 7, 7:00 to 8, New members classes

CHANNEL PEARL } H&SP.  
H&S REX }  
BOB TROSEN }

"Shadowy Portents: Sign"

Scripture: Matthew 12:38-41

Perhap one of bes storys of OT=Jonah & comon cal=Th/Whale  
hidn w/in story is part wat G desir 4mank

I sur U herd varius thots pertain 2 Jonah=whthr real man/fictir  
on way lk hisricity Jonah ask=Wat did Js say bout him?

Portin Scrip red tol us & furthr need undrst Js no spk mythical  
peopl

Also, He spok relatship wat hapn Jonah pr, & wat no hap w/His pr  
Thus lnce agin & 4las tim this series we lk wat hapn ancient pas  
& how was "Portent" wat G wud bring 4th latr tim

Jonah was Galilean & thus shar kinship w/Js this pt

Jonah mean Dove & simlarity 2 Js (pt out H Sp lik Dove=Peace)

Ther sevrl aspec cud pt out bout Jonah, but lk only swallo by fish  
Jonah disobd 2-G & go oposit direc & G divinly appt ~~xxxx~~ storm  
& fish

3 days & nites Jonah in fish; Jonah go Ninevha & peo repent  
centuryrs go by & Js of Naz pr in & arnd Jeru

in 1st yr of minstry read of =vs 38

A sur sign that man was G's man was signs/miracles

Moses, Elijah, Elisha all pruv this

vs 39=this only sign Js sed wud giv

vss 40-41=whil they try decid wat He sed He add this

He say lday peo Ninevah ris up in judgmen agin Jews & condemn  
Bcuz they repent at pr of Jonah & Jews no listn 2pr suml grtr  
than Jonah

He sed wud giv no grtr sign than simlarty tween self & Jonah  
cum bak 2lif

Js tel of resur & how ilus Jonah was sign of it

In ord 4 Js 2sho this sign mus dy

or He dy was bury

but ther R thoz want argu Js & Jonah not sam 3dyas & nites

Expl: Jews reckon a part of day as a day=Fri aftrnoon=1 day

Friday nite 6 nu day; Sat nite 6nu day

G declar thru Galilean Jonah, th/Dove in futur wudB event simlar  
only dif was Js cum 4th fr/Grav brot life 2any & all who cum 2  
G thru Js

Can C fr ilus G had plan wh/reveal litl by litl in livs many  
servs rt up 2tim of Js cum 2 erth

Ea step of plan had certin mean as it B liv out in shadowy  
recesses of ancient times

we need tak hart & comf in fac G provid 4our salvatin thru  
Js Xp

vocry ours thru Him



And while they are trying to decide just what it is He is saying, He continues by saying, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Ninevah shall rise in judgement with this generation and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah is here," verses 40 & 41.

He is saying that one day the people of Ninevah would one day rise in judgement against the Jews and condemn them because they repented at the preaching of Jonah and yet, the Jews would not listen to the preaching of someone greater than Jonah. He said that He would give them no other sign than the similarity between Himself and Jonah coming back to life as it were. Jesus is foretelling His resurrection and how the illustration of Jonah was a sign of it.

In order for Jesus to show this sign He had to die. After He died, He was buried. But there are those who want to argue that Jesus was not literally in the grave for three days and nights like Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish. The answer is quite simply that the Jews reckoned a portion of a day as being one day when they reckoned time. Jesus was buried late Friday afternoon and since that Friday it was considered as the first day. The Sabbath, or Saturday began at sundown at 6:00 P.M. and that started another day. So Saturday was the second day in the tomb. Then Sunday, the first day of the week began at Sundown or 6:00 P.M. Saturday evening and that began the third day. So it involved a technicality of a few hours.

God declared through the Galilean Jonah, the Dove, that in the future a similar event would take place in the distant future. The only difference was, that the significance of Jesus coming forth from the ~~xxx~~ grave brought life to any and all who would come to God through Christ. We can see from this illustration that God had a plan which He revealed little by little in the lives of many of His servants right up to the time of Jesus coming to earth. Each step of His plan had a certain meaning as it was being lived out in the shadowy recesses of ancient times. We need to take heart and comfort in the fact that God has provided for our salvation through Jesus Christ. The victory is ours through Him.

### "Shadowy Portents: Sign"

Scripture: Matthew 12:38-41

Perhaps one of the best known stories of the Old Testament is the story of Jonah and what is commonly called "the whale." But hidden within the story is a part of the true meaning which God desired for mankind.

I am sure that you have heard the different thoughts pertaining to Jonah and whether he was a real man, or a mythical character who never existed. ~~Perhaps~~ The only way to look at the historicity of Jonah is to ask the question, "What did Jesus have to say about him?" The answer of course is found in that portion of Scripture we just read. To further answer the question we need to understand that Jesus didn't speak of mythical people. Also, He spoke of Jonah in relationship to what happened with Jonah's preaching and what had not happened with His preaching to the Jews. Thus it is that once again, and for the last time in this series we will look at something which happened in the ancient past and how it was a "Portent" of something that God was going to bring forth at a later time.

Jonah was a Galilean and thus he shared a kinship with Jesus from that standpoint. The name "Jonah" meant, "Dove." During the early ministry of Jesus, the Spirit of God descended upon Him and the Gospel writers tell us it was in the form of a Dove. A Dove is the symbol of Peace and this is what Jesus was called, "The Prince of Peace."

Now there are several different aspects we could point out about the life of Jonah but for our use at this time we need to only look at the aspect of Jonah being swallowed by a large fish. Jonah was disobedient to God and sought to go in the opposite direction from which God wanted him to go. Because of this, God divinely appointed a storm that threatened the lives of everyone on board the ship on which Jonah was going away from Ninevah. Because of that storm the crew came to the conclusion that it was Jonah who was threatening their lives by being on that ship. Jonah suggests that they throw him overboard to calm the storm. The sailors do just that and God had appointed a large fish to swallow him up. For three days and nights we are told that Jonah was in the belly of this large fish. At the end of that time, the fish spits Jonah up on the dry land from whence he goes to Ninevah and preaches the message God had first given to him. The people of Ninevah repented and turned to God and nothing is heard again of this prophet named Jonah. Centuries go by and Jesus of Nazareth is preaching and teaching in and around Jerusalem. So it is in the first year of His earthly ministry that He is approached by some scribes and pharisees. They had heard that He was being acclaimed as the Messiah and they wanted to see if He really was the long awaited ONE. So Matthew tells us, "Then certain scribes and pharisees answered saying, 'Master, we would see a sign from Thee.'" verse 38.

A sure sign that a man was indeed God's man, was a sign of something miraculous. Moses, considered to be one of the greatest of the Jewish fathers performed many signs; so did Elijah and Elisha. So it was only natural that to prove Himself, Jesus had to perform special signs and wonders.

So what did Jesus do? He answered them we are told by saying, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah," verse 39.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 3, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Guest Speaker: Mr. Boyd Smith

+ + + + +  
EASTER SUNRISE ORDER OF WORSHIP 6:30 A.M.

Prelude

Pastor: Our Lord has risen from the dead! Christ has  
conquered death to bring new life to man! He  
lives today and for all eternity! Alleluia!!

\*Hymn of Joy - "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ hath opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia! Amen.

\*Call to Worship

Pastor - Now is Christ risen from the dead, and  
become the first fruits of them that slept.

People - For since by man came death, by man came  
also the resurrection of the dead.

Pastor - For this corruptible must put on incorr-  
uption, and this mortal must put on  
immortality.

People - O death, where is thy sting? O grave,  
where is thy victory?

\*Invocation

Hymn "He Lives"

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;  
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer  
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,  
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair;  
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast  
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, Rejoice, O Christian lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal Hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!  
The Hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,  
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Chorus:

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's  
narrow way.  
He lives, He lives salvation to impart,  
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my  
heart!

Easter Prayer

\*Anthem: "Christ Arose"

Scripture: Matthew 16:15

Sermon: "But Who Do You Say That I Am?"

\*Hymn "Because He Lives"

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy He gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Chorus: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives all fear is gone,  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because  
He lives.

Benediction:

Pastor - We have come again to the empty tomb. We are loved, forgiven and made new through our Risen Savior Jesus Christ.

People - Through Him we have passed out of death into life.

Pastor - The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Go in peace. Amen.

Announcements:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Boyd Smith for being with us this morning, and for bringing us a message of Easter.

Love Loaves will be dedicated during the 11:00 A.M. service. If you did not bring yours you may do so next Sunday.

Easter Eggs are still available in case you forgot someone on your Easter list. Stop in the kitchen after the service.

Leadership Training Classes for the Elders and Deacons who were nominated will begin April 5th from 7 - 9 each evening. This will be held on every Tuesday for six weeks.

EASTER  
SUNRISE  
SERVICE





St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 3, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Meron Hewis  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
Trumpet Introit by Danny Mangel and Dale Rice  
Call to Worship:  
Pastor - Why seek ye the living among the dead?  
He is risen!  
People - He is risen indeed!  
Pastor - Let us worship God  
\*Processional Hymn No. 289 "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"  
\*Invocation (In Unison) Almighty God, whose Son, our  
Savior Jesus Christ, broke the seal of the tomb and  
came forth in glory, we laud and magnify Your holy name.  
Let us see the cross and then the empty tomb for we  
cannot stand hopeless before such glory. Let Jesus who  
conquered the grave, sin and death, come into our  
hearts, our homes, and our church. May He conquer our  
wills and our lives to reign supreme in each of us this  
Easter Day. Let the Light of Your Word be a lamp to  
our feet, and the Light of the Risen Christ a beacon to  
our path. In His name we pray. Amen.  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 298 "Christ Arose"  
Easter Prayer  
Easter Offering (All offerings, envelopes, loose change,  
and Love Loaves are to be brought forward and placed  
in the boxes provided for the same)  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Dedication of Love Loaves  
Offering Prayer  
Easter Anthem: "Majesty"  
Scripture: Luke 24: 1-9  
Sermon: "Come Home"

\*Hymn No. 292 "Because He Lives"  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The Lillies on the Chancel area may be picked up following  
the service. If you need help the Ushers will assist.  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hollefreund will greet our members and  
friends at the door this Easter morning.  
Ushers for today are Marty Henry, Frank Crawford, John  
Snow and Jeff Snyder.  
Attendance last Sunday was 162 with 21 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and Wendy  
Norman.  
Hospitalized: Charlie Penar and Jane Massart in BMH - OUT  
Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margaret's in Pitts.  
Bill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the  
hospital this week.  
SCHEDULE FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK:  
April 3 - NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP  
4 - Benevolence Committee meeting at 7 P.M.  
6 - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
Dates to Remember:  
April 11 - VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M.  
During the worship service we will dedicate the Love  
Loaves and all other offerings at the same time.  
Please bring your offering whatever it may be, (envel-  
opes, loose change, etc.), to the Chancel rail and  
place it in the boxes provided for this at the time of  
the offering.  
If you forgot to bring your Love Loaf this morning, you  
may bring it in next Sunday.  
Leadership Training Classes for the Elders and Deacons  
who were nominated will begin April 5th from 7 to 9  
P.M. and continue for six weeks every Tuesday. So if  
are one of those nominated, we hope you will make every  
effort to attend. NEW MEMBER CLASSES - THURS APR 7-7  
Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed  
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for  
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations  
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself  
of this opportunity.

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. Easter April 19, 1992

Prelude

Announcements/Greetings/Joys/Prayer Requests

Ascription

Call To Worship:

BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND BECOME THE  
FIRSTFRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT.  
O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING? O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY?  
THANKS BE TO GOD WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST.

\*Hymn

Offering/Prayer

\*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Scripture: Luke 24:1-9

Sermon: "Come Home" - St. Paul's Butler 4/3/88

\*Hymn

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

PLINY 1st centry AD coin phras=HOM IS WHER TH/HART IS  
expl - hom many things 2many peo

(Ilus girl not abl stanup in clas Bcus no tak bath)  
(Ilus old boys - teach us walk,talk,& then its=sit dwn &  
shut up)  
(Ilus girl fathr mov all ovr plae & sumone sed=Its 2bad U dont  
hav a hom lik evrone els - reply:Oh we hav a hom,we jus dont  
hav a hous 2put it in)

Js & no home - Bethany Mary,Martha,Laz closes  
Last days & dreams shatrd

EXPL:

VSS 1-10

womn in society, 11 discips

Lerned All was not lost - JS WAS ALIV

(Ilus George/Rosie & My Wild IRISH ROSE)

VS 11= No Bliev

VS 12=Petr

that nite Js apear & they Bliev

VS 8=Prob remembr words Jn tel us 14th chap

VS 3=In My F's hous,etc - no plac on erth,but home in glory

(Ilus B Graham,& Grandfather write+Come Hom3

SUMBAY LUV HAND WILB PLAV OUR SHOULDERS & BRIEF MESAG GIVN,

"COME HOME"

in odr 2 COME HOME - mus kno way

(Ilus lost boy & TAK ME 2 TH/CROS ON TH/HILSIDE)

eros plac ther by luv Hvnly F

altho man try put dwn G,no succeed

Js Xp is aliv

extend invitatin to COME HOME thru His shed blud

th/Eastr mesag always has bin & always wilb,

CHRIST IS ALIVE, COME HOME



Come Home  
Scripture: Luke 24:1-9

In 1st C-AD Romn Plny sed=Hom is wher th hart is"  
a hom is mant thing 2many peo & a shak may seem unfit dwell plac  
4peren of means,but 2occupant it is hom  
we prob receiv bes perspectives of wat hom is fr/littl childrn  
(I' ) littl girl & can not stan up & say tuk bath)  
(I. ) 2-8yr old boys & probs w/parents=taut walk,talk,shutup)  
(Ilus littl girl & hav hom,jus no hav hous 2put it in)  
simlar 2situ discipJs find selvs in  
entri lngth Js minstry travl w/Him fr/plac 2plac & hav no perm  
residenc  
Perhap closes thin 2residenc was hous Bethny=Laz,Mary,Martha  
Jus bin ther previus wk prior 2arivl in Jeru  
wk star w/gran welcum in2 Jeru of Mastr Js  
4them it glorius tim & mus hav seem lik Js finly get recognitin  
But as wk progres Js tol many thing wh/at tim seem strang 2them  
taut bout futur thing & tol thing wud hpn 2Him in near futur  
They wer sad,but prob no complet undrst wat He say Bcuz cudnt  
Bliev anyl wud actuly put Him 2deth  
But undrstud wen ate las meal w/Him & He arest  
they fled 4very livs & during exil wer made awar agin,they had nc  
perm residenc,no plac 2cal home  
In all prob stay frends hous,hid fr/relig authortys in fear 4  
own safty  
whil in hide word receiv Js put 2deth & bury in gardn tomb  
as far as they concern,dream shatr & thoz yrs spent w/Him wer  
ovr  
Ther was no kngdm of wh/they a part of that gone by  
felt lik huntid crimnls & givn up ~~wax~~ all 2folo wat mus hav  
seem lik idl dream  
so whil 1l Blievr hidout,lk tel us othrs Blievr cumout hiding  
or pecil missin  
vs 1=1st day was Sun & cum perform finl burial 4 Js  
fnd ston rolway=vs 3  
naturl expec find ston in plac & body ther also  
now here mystry,& ask ea othr wat this ment????  
vs 4A=perples mean=in Gr non-plusssdunabl 2go on,2spk,simply at  
loss in all this  
vs 4B=recogniz in presenc angle-ord peo no wear shin garments  
vss 5-7=1t them all transpir ovr 3yr periud wh/had bin w/Him  
fell in2 plac  
vs 8-9=lk tel us simply thez things  
Who wer peo cum 2tomb & tol 1st gud news of Js aris?  
lk say=vs 10=in socity womn considr 2nd clas citizn this exam  
how G entrus mesag 2anyl who seeks 2 cum 2 Him  
1l wer hid,completly homles & fear 4livs & womn wer at cemetary  
lern that all not lost  
(Ilus Geo & Rosie & Geo cum 2 ch)  
May notB propr hymn 4Eastr Sun,but G givs prom that all Blievr  
who dy in Xp R aliv w/Him

27  
But wen womn tol discipJs wat seen & hpn,lk expl=vs 11  
Thez men wer so in shok wat takn plac,seem imposibl anyth gud  
or worthwhil cud cum out of deth of Js  
vs 12=Gus ol impet Petr  
we no tol whethr Petr cam bak & convinc othrs Js aliv,but as  
ch-n unfol read Js apcar 2them that note & they Bliev  
wo. ) Luk wrot tel of womn at tomb wer prob sam words cud hav  
writ bout discipJs & sed=& they rembr His words"  
And wat wer thoz words?  
They wer words of all wud hpn 2Him & proms He made 2them  
Certinly sum thoz words wer thoz He spok 2them in Uprr room folo  
las meal w/ther  
Jn record inciden so vividly in 14th chap Gospel,  
DiscipJs now remembr thoz words=Jn 14:2-3  
Js had bin tel them altho had no hom on erth,had hom in glory  
w/Him bcuz they Blong 2 Him  
(Ilus of B Graham story & grandfathr writ=Cum Home)  
Sun day a luvng hand wilB plac on our shoudrs & th brief mesag  
wilB givn=Cum Home  
But in ord 2cum hom mus know way  
Js furthr sed=I Am th/way, th/truth/& th/lif:no man cumth 2th  
Fathr but by Me  
Wat He ment was that in ord 2 Come 2 that hvnly Hom it musB  
thru Him as I & Sav of th/individs lif  
(Ilus lost boy & tel polic=Tak me 2 th/cross on th/hillside)  
That cros on th/hillsid was plac ther 4 ea us by a luv Fathr  
Altho th/intent of man was 2put dwn G, they didnt succeed  
Js Xp is alive!  
And He extend th/invitatin 2 Come Home thru His shed blud  
Th/Eastr mesag always has bin & always wilB=Xp is Aliv,Cum Home

# "Come Home"

Scripture: Luke 24:1-9

~~xxxxxxxRomanPlinyxxx~~

In the first century A.D. it was the Roman Pliny who coined the phrase, "Home is where the heart is." ~~Regardlessofwherethehouseislocated~~ A home is many things to many people. A shack may seem like an unfit dwelling for a person of means, but to the occupant of that house, it is home.

But we probably receive our best perspectives of what a home is from little children.

(Illustration of little girl not being able to stand up in class for taking a bath)

Then there is the account of two eight-year-old boys talking about the problems they had with their parents.

(Illustration of these two boys learning to walk, talk, & sit down and shut up).

Another little girl ~~xxxxxx~~ whose father had been transferred all over the place had lived in many parts of the world. Someone speaking to her about this one day said to her, "It's too bad you don't have a home like everyone else." The girl answered, "Oh we have a home, but we just don't have a house to put it in." This was similar to the situation which the disciples of Jesus found themselves in. For the entire length of Jesus' earthly ministry they had traveled with Him from place to place. They actually didn't have a permanent residence. Perhaps the closest thing to a permanent residence was the house in Bethany which belonged to their friends Lazarus, and Mary and Martha. They had just been there the previous week just prior to their arrival in Jerusalem. That week had started out with a grand welcome into Jerusalem of their Master Jesus. For them that was a glorious time and it must have seemed that Jesus was at last receiving the acclaim He deserved.

But then as the week progressed, Jesus told them many things which at the time seemed very strange to them. He taught them about things that He said would happen in the far distant future and He told them of things which were going to happen to Him and they were sad.

But they didn't completely understand what He was saying because they couldn't believe that anyone would actually seek to have Him put to death. But they certainly understood it when He was arrested after they had shared that last meal with them.

They fled in fear for their very lives and during this brief exile they were made aware once again that they didn't have a permanent home. So in all probability they stayed at the homes of friends, hiding from the religious authorities in fear for their own safety.

It was while they were in hiding that word came to them that Jesus had been put to death and buried in a garden tomb. As far as they were concerned their dreams were shattered and those years they had been with Him were over. There was no kingdom of which they were to be a part of. They felt like hunted criminals and had given up all to follow what must have seemed like an idle dream.

So while these 11 disciples hid from the authorities, Luke tells us that other believers came out of hiding with a special mission in mind. In the 1st verse of the 24th chapter we are told, (Read verse 1). The first day of the week was Sunday and it was at the breaking of dawn, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that they came to the tomb to finish the proper preparations for Jesus' burial. But when they arrived they discovered the stone had been rolled away



from the entrance and we read, "And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Naturally, they expected the stone to be in place at the entrance of the tomb, and when it was not, they went in to investigate further, but discovered also that the body was not there either. Now here was a mystery. They probably questioned among themselves just what all of this meant. And Luke tells us, "And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout." verse 4A.

In all probability we would probably have described this ~~xx~~ in much stronger terms. The word that Luke uses here ~~xxxx~~ for perplexity is the Greek word that means they were absolutely non-plussed. They were unable to go on, to speak, they were simply at a loss in all of this. Luke then adds, "Behold, two men stood by them in shining garments." Recognizing<sup>b</sup> that they were in the presence of ~~something~~ angels, since ordinary humans didn't have or wear shining garments, we are told, "And as they were afraid, and bowed their faces to the earth, they said unto them, 'Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you while He was yet in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" verses 5-7.

It is then that all that had transpired over the 3 year period in which they had been with Him fell into place. And Luke tells us simply, "And they remembered His Words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven and to all the rest," verses 8 and 9.

Who were these people who had first been told the good news that Jesus had arisen? Luke tells us simply in the 10th verse, (read this verse). In a society in which women were considered as second-class citizens, this is ~~xxmight~~ an example of how God entrusts His message to anyone who seeks to come to Him. The eleven were in hiding, completely homeless and fearing for their lives. And the women were at the cemetery learning that all was not lost. (Illustration of George and Rosie and George coming to church)

That may not be the proper hymn to sing on Easter Sunday, but God gives the promise that all believers who die in Christ are alive with Him.

But when the women told the disciples what they had seen and what happened, Luke explains "And their words seemed as idle tales, and they believed them not," verse 11. These men were so in shock over what had taken place it seemed impossible that anything good or worthwhile could come out of this death of Jesus. Then it was that Luke tells us that good old impetuous Peter ran to see for himself, (read verse 12). We are not told that Peter came back and convinced the others that Jesus was alive, but as this chapter unfolds we read that Jesus appeared to them that night and they believed.

The words that Luke wrote telling of the women at the tomb were probably the same words he could have written about the disciples and said, "And they remembered His words." And what were those words? They were the words of all that would happen to Him and the promises He had made to them. Certainly some of those words were those which He spoke to them in the Upper Room following His last meal with them. John recorded that incident so vividly for us in the 14th chapter of his Gospel, but it was the disciples who had been told that and who now remembered that Jesus had said, "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there you may be also."

Jesus had been telling them that although they may not have a place on earth to call home, because they belonged to Him, they had an eternal home in glory with Him.

(Illustration of Billy Graham story and Grandfather writing, "Come Home")

Some day a loving hand will be placed on our shoulders and the brief message will be given, "Come Home."

But in order to "Come Home" we must know the way. Jesus ~~fx~~ further said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by Me."

What He meant was that in order to "Come" to that heavenly Home, it must be through Him as Lord and Savior of the individual's life.

(Illustration of lost boy and telling police, "Take me to the cross on the hillside")

That cross on the hillside was placed there for each of us by a loving Father. Although the intent of man was to put down God, they didn't succeed. Jesus Christ is alive! And He extends the invitation to "Come Home," through His shed blood. The Easter message always has been and always will be, "Christ is alive, Come Home!"



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 10, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Meron Hewis  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Proclamation Hymn No. 6 "This Is My Father's World"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (Unison) Almighty God, who brought again  
from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, help us in the  
days of our flesh to minister like Him. Keep our  
tempers calm; make us brave to fight for the right  
and to stand firm against those who would oppress  
the weak. Give us grace to know Him as our living  
Lord, and strength to follow in His footsteps; in  
His name we pray. Amen.  
\*Kyrle  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Children's Sermon with Bob  
Hymn No. 432 "Softly and Tenderly"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory by Youth Orchestra  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "Arky, Arky" and "If You're Saved" - Youth Choir  
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1: 1-3  
Sermon: "Plan A"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 295 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Emogene Massey in memory of her Mother.  
Mr. Jimmy McClymonds will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.  
Ushers for today are: Sandy Sheppeck, Erla Hollefreund,  
Isabel Eichhorn, and Helen Crouse.  
Attendance last Sunday was 177 with 40 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Karen Link.  
Ben Vensel and Herb Shearer will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

➤ Hospitalized: Charlie Penar in BMH  
➤ MONDAY - VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M. This is for all helpers  
and teachers. Please plan to attend!  
- Sunday School Teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M. We  
need ALL teachers to attend this.  
➤ TUESDAY - Leadership Training classes at 7:00 P.M. This  
is an opportunity for those who were nominated  
for Elder or Deacon to receive their training.  
➤ CAUGHT - the movie will be shown at the Plaza Theatre  
beginning April 29 through May 5th. The tickets  
are now available in the office at a cost of  
\$3.00 per person. Tickets at the door will be  
\$2.50 for children and \$4.00 per adult. Stop  
now and pick up your tickets, and plan to attend.  
Another Billy Graham movie will be shown here at the  
church May 15th. This movie entitled "Cry From The  
Mountain" has been shown in the area before, but this  
is open to the public. Share this information with your  
friends and invite them to come "to the movie."  
➤ BIBLE STUDY is now resuming after the holiday on Sunday  
evening at 7:00 P.M. Come join us!  
Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed  
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for  
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations  
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ, as Savior, to  
pray, the meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself  
of this opportunity.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE**

WELCOMES YOU..  
APRIL 19, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

**GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**\*\*HYMN-----More About Jesus-----#477**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

**\*\*DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

**HYMN----Since Jesus Came Into My Heart---#639**

**SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3**

**SERMON: "Plan A"**

**\*\*HYMN-----Oh That Will Be Glory-----#132**

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

**SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....**

**\*\* Please stand**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....**

\* We would like to thank all who participated any way in the play. The YOUTH especially, they did a wonderful job. We hope this is not the end! L

\* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birthdates to JoAnn or Joyce.

\* **TODAY:** CHURCH BOWLING PARTY: Punxsutawney Bowling Alley April 19, 1998 - - 2-4pm - -Pizza Party

\* **April 19, 1998:** Youth Group 6-8pm. Bring Bibles.

\* John & Jennifer Lingenfelter would like to thank everyone for their prayers and those who attended the baby Shower. The BABY is doing fine and is home.

\* **April 26, 1998:** Fellowship Dinner - After Church. Please plan to attend. Everyone is to bring a covered dish.

\* **April 26, 1998 :** Hymn Sing - 2 - 4 pm . Plan to bring your singing voice and or instrument with you.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

April 13-----Ronald Stiffler

April 17-----Brian Bailey

April 22-----Twila Calhoun

April 24-----Laird Calhoun

April 28-----Steven Leydic

*PAUL  
MAKINCES  
TORRADO VICTIMS  
ABBY FAMILY  
BENJAMIN*

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

Dear Father,  
Every now and then, without warning,  
each of us has a good day;  
Please, Lord, it's my  
turn today,  
isn't it?



SCRIP: ECC 1:1-5; SERMON: "PLAN A"

IF U WER ASK="WAT IS WISDM?" - WAT WUD U SAY?

(ILUS LITTLE GIRL & CHOICE OF MONEY AT AUNT'S HOUSE)  
WEB. DICT DEFINE WISDM="TH/POWR OF JUDGING RITELY"

IN OLD TESTAMENT THER ARE 3 BUKSCLASFY AS "WISDOM LITERATUR"  
CAN U NAME THEM???

JO. J. VERBS. ECCLESIASTES

AT FIRST CUDB CLASFY AS BGIN W/PATIENCE, WISDM, THEN DESPAIR

BUT NOT QUITE TRU PICTUR WAT BUKS PAINT

NEX SEVRL WKS WIL LK AT ECCLES & TRY DISCOVER TRU PICTUR AUTHOR  
TRY 2GIV

BUK REFLECTIN ON EXPER OF LIF AS SEEN BY AUTHOR FR/HIS PERSPECT

SUMONE LK AT LIF & SED=LIF IS JUS BOWL OF CHERRYS

FEW YRS AGO SUMONE WROTE SONG 2THAT EFFECT

BUT IF LIF IS SUPOS 2B A BOWL OF CHERRYS, 4MANY PEO IT IS MERLY  
TH/PITS

LIF GIVS MANY, MANY QUESTS MAY REMAIN UNANSWRBL THROUT LIFE  
(ILUS LOUIS GOLDBERG, PROF THEO MOODY BIBL INST & QUESTS OF GOD)

DEUT 17:16-17

3/

DAV FATHER OF SOL FOLO ADVIC FR/GOD, BUT NOT COMPLETELY

BUT DID BETTR JOB THAN HIS SON

DAV HAD MOR THAN ONE WIF, BUT NOT ON GRND SCAL LK SOL

WE R TOL SOL HAD 700 WIVS & 300 CONCUBINES

(H' WAS GLUTTON 4PUNISHMENT - 1000 MOTHER-IN-LAWS, LERND MEANING  
OF RD - "NAG")

WE READ IN SCRIP WEN DAV CAPTURD HORSES HE CUT TENDNS THOZ HORSES  
SO CUDNT B USED IN BATTL

HE REFUSD 2BILD A CHARIOT BASD MILTRY ESTABLISHMENT

HE DIDNT GRTLY INCREAS SILVR/GOLD IN KINGDM ON GRAND SCALE

BUT SOL DID ALL OF THEZ THINGS CONTRARY 2WAT GOD WANTED

SOL SEEMD 2BLIEV FOREING WIVS WUDNT TURN HIM FR/GOD

HE SEEMD 2BLIEV GRT STABL OF HORSES/CHARIOTS MADE HIM EXTXXKING  
A POWRFUL KING

SEEMD 2BLIEV DISPLAY VAST QUANTYS GOLD/SILVR SET HIM APART  
AS TH/MOST POWRFUL KING AS WELL

ONE THING SOL DID, 2 THAT WAS 2LEAN ON HIS WISDOM

BUT AFTR ALL WASNT IT A GIFT THAT GOD GAV HIM?

AND SHUDNT HE USE IT EVN IF IT CONFLICTD W/WAT GOD WANTED??

BUT GOD WAS WISR THAN THIS MOS WISEST OF MEN

WAT GOD SED WUD HAPPN DID & WE LERN OF THIS FROM 1 Kings 11

THER WE READ IN VSS 1-8 - (READ THEZ)

TH/ONE THEME THIS BUK IS VANITY, OR MEANINGLESSNES OF LIFE  
AUTHOR USES WORD VANITY 33 TIMES & PLURAL OF IT 4TIMES THROUT  
IT WUD SEEM THUS THAT BUK ~~MAXXNMTM~~ IS NUTHIN BUT BUK OF DESPAIR

BUT NOT QUITE TRU & IN FAC GIVS SUM POSTIV IDEAS 2LIF & IN  
ORDR 2DISCOVER THAT WIL HAV 2DIG IN BUK 2FIND IT

BUT I BLIEV SERCH WILB WEL WORTH IT  
OF NECESITY CANOT DRAW OUT EA & EVRY VS, SO WIL SKIM PARTS OF IT

PERHAPS ONCE A WK AS WE GO THRU IT  
EA WK WIL TRY 2GIV U SUM HOMEWORK 2PREP 4THE NEXT WEEK

NEX WK WIL COVER FR/VSS 4 OF CHAP 1, THRU 2ND CHAP - SUGES U REAL  
VS 1-K SOL WRIT PROV, ECCLES & SONG OF SOL

EA WRITIN DIF TIME OF LIF

S OF SOL=WHIL STIL IN FERVOR OF HIS FIRST LUV FOR GOD

PROV=WRITIN LITTL LATR DEPIC WISDM GIV AS GIFT FR/GOD

ECCLES=WRIT OLB AGE & ACTULY GAV TESTMONY HIS REPENTANC ~~REXXXXXX~~  
OF HIS APOSTACY

SOLS DEFECTIN FR/GOD HAD ADVERS EFFECT ON HIM

HE FND HE CUT OFF FR/GOD, BUT THIS WAS HIS OWN CHOICE

HE LEF W/ONLY WISDM 2GUID HIM & HE SEEK FIND LIF MEANING APART  
FR/GOD

WHIL STIL IN FELLSHIP W/GOD, HE CUD WRITE:

2/

TH/FEAR OF TH/LORD IS TH/BGINING OF WISDOM

BUT NOW YRS LATR HIS THINK WAS DIF

HE TRY 2REASN TH/MEAN OF LIF WITH TH/DATA AVAIL W/IN THE  
PHYSICAL UNIVRS

SO HE WRITE .....VERSE 2 - (READ THIS)

HE SAY=MEANINGLES, MEANINGLES, EVRTHING IS MEANINGLES

LIF HAD TAKN ON ASPECT OF MEANINGLESSNES

4""M HE CUD C NO HOPE, NO LITE AT END OF TH/TUNNELL

SO / ASK TH/QUEST .....VERSE 3 - (READ THIS)

HE ASK AGE OLD QUEST="WAT IS MEANING, OR TH/PURPOS OF LIFE?"

"IS IT JUS 2SLAV & WORK 4 A LIFETIME?"

"WAT IS TH/ADVANTAG OF THAT?"

NOW 2UNDRST WAT SOL IS ASK & HOW HE CUM 2THIS PT IN HIS THINK

WE NEED 2UNDRST HOW HE GOT 2THIS PT OF MEANINGLESSNES

GOD HAD TOLD PEO OF ISR. WEN BCUM SETTL IN PROMIS LAND THEY WUD  
DEMAND A KING

IN BUK DEUT HE SPEL THIS OUT IN 17TH CHAPTR - (TURN TO THIS)

VSS 1-8- THEZ FOREIGN WIVS TURND HIM FR/GOD 4/  
 THEN WE READ .....  
 VSS 9-13-G HAD TOL ISRAEL WAT WUD HAPEN IF KINGS TURND FR/HIM  
 K SOL SEEM 2THINK HE ABUV WISDM OF GOD  
 SO HE USE HIS WISDM, HIS HUMANTY & WEN LIF LAY RND HIM IN SHAM-  
 BLES W/HED IN HANDS CRY OUT=MEANINGLES/MEANINGLES/MEANINGLES,  
 RTH IS MEANINGLES  
 LIF NO DIF 2DAY  
 MUCH OF WORL & MANY OF WORLD'S PEO HAV SOT 2DO OWN THING & WEN  
 LIF IS SHAMBLES CRY OUT=WATS TH/MEANING TO LIFE???  
 WE LIV IN AGE OF MATERIALISM  
 2B SUMTHIN, OR SUMBODY U NEED ALL THEZWORDLY THINGS- CARS, BOATS,  
 COMPUTRS, FAX, E MAIL, ON & ON & ON  
 (ILUS RICH MAN & PLAN 2TAK IT W/HIM - PREACHR, DOCTOR, LAWYR)  
 (ILUS REBELIUS SENIOR, & TALK W/TEACHER)  
 WE HAV TH/ANSR DEEP DWN INSID OF US  
 BUT QUESTIN IS + "DO WE WANT IT??  
 DO WE WANT TH/ANSR 4ALL OF LIF AS GOD GIVS IT???  
 IN ALL HIS SERCHING SOL FINLY FND ANSR & SO MUST WE  
 GOD WANT U 2KNO HIM & THAT IS WHY HE HAS PROVIDED JS XP  
 IF U R SERCHING LET THAT SERCH END 2DAY  
 CHRIST IS TH/ANSR, ACEPT HIS INVITATIN 2CUM UNTO HIM

Louiss Goldberg, prof of Theo at Moody Bibl Inst  
 writes:  
 Why duz G if He exists, permit catastrophs 2happn  
 such as kil of peo in war or thru naturl disatars  
 Why do as many as 100M dy in an erthquak?  
 Why do peo fall ill?  
 Wh 3 childrn inflictd w/incurbl diseas & dy B4  
 th, evn hav an optuntty 2liv sumth of wat this  
 lif hav 2offr?

& then he adds:  
 Evn tho in 1 sens it mayB big questin, mos peo  
 try 2extrac sum joy & pleasur fr/this lif w/ther  
 famlys in travling, & in pursuing wat passes 4  
 delite in this world

Vanity - 3/4 times  
 meaningless

WEBSTER = WISDOM IS TH/POWER OF JUDGING  
 RIGHTLY



"Plan A"

scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3  
 f U wer ask=wat is wisdm? Wat wud U say?  
 Ilus littl girl & choic of mony)  
 rebatr defin wisdm as=th/powr ~~2nd~~ of judg ritly  
 in OT ther R 3bks clasfy as wisdm buks, or wisdm litrtur  
 can U nam them? - In cas U strugl=Job, Prov, & Eccles  
 (st glanc canB clasfy as start w/patienc, end w/despair  
 but that not tru pictur wat buks paint  
 In nex sevr l wks we R go 2lk at Eccl & try discovr tru pictur  
 authr seek 2giv  
 buk is reflec in on exper of lif as seen fr/his perspectiv  
 suml who was lk lif fr/rosy stanpt say=Lif is jus bowl of cherys  
 In fac, suml wrot song few yrs bak 2that efec  
 But if lif is supos 2B bowl of cherys, 4many peo it is PITS  
 Lif givs us many, many quest unansrd thruout all of lif  
 (Ilus Louis Goldberg, Prof Moody, & quests bout Gos)  
 Th/one themmos pickup th s buk is theme of vanity, or th/meaningles  
 of lif  
 author use word 34 times & th plural of it 4 times in buk  
 it wud seem this buk nothin but despair, but not quite tru  
 In fac, it giv sum positiv idea 2lif & in ord 2discovr that, we  
 wil dig in th/buk 2find it  
 But I Bliev serch wil pruv 2B wel worth it  
 I wud suges in ord undrst buk, read it thru sevr l times, perhap  
 lnce a wk as we go thru it  
 We cannot Bcuz of time factr go vs by vs, so wil skim sumwat  
 I wil try ea wk 2giv U Ur homework & 4nex wk wil covr fr vs 4 of  
 1st chap thru entir 2nd chaptr  
 vs l=this how authr Bgin  
 we identify this man as Sol, son of David, K of Israel  
 He wrot Prov, Ecc, & S of Sol, but ea at dif times of lif  
 S of Sol writ wen Sol stil in fervr of 1st luv 4 God  
 P. ) writ littl latr depic wisdm giv as gif fr/G  
 Ecc wrot in late ol age & actuly gav testimony of his repentenc  
 of his apostacy  
 Sols defectin fr/G had an advers efec on him  
 he fnd he cutoff fr/G, but was by his own choic  
 he was lef w/only widsm 2guid him & he was seek 2find lifes  
 meaning apart fr/G  
 Whil Sol in feloship w/G he cud writ=Th/fear of thL is th/Bgin  
 of wisdm  
 But now yrs latr, thing wer dif, & his think was dif  
 he try reasn out mean of lif w/data availbl w/in phys univers  
 So he writ=vs 2=& he say=meaningles, meaningles, evrth meanles  
 lif had tagn on th/aspec of meaninglesnes & 4him ther no hope  
 he cud C=the no lite at end of tunneel & he ask=Vs 3  
 this age ol quest=Wat is mean or purpos of lif?  
 Is it 2jus work/slav 4 a lifetime & that is it?  
 Wat advantag is that?

2/

2undrst wat Sol ask & how cum 2this pt in his think, we mus  
 undrst how he got 2this pt of meaninglesnes  
 G had tol peo Is wen Bcam setl in ther Promis Land they wud  
 deman a king  
 In buk Deut 17:16-17 this spel out=(read vss)  
 Dav, fathr of Sol folo this advie fr/G but not completly  
 he did bettr job than son  
 Dav had mor than one wif, but not on grand scal of Sol  
 2C how Sol disobey we need lk 1 Ki chap 11  
 vss 1-8 tel us bout thez wivs & how turn him fr/folo G & worsh  
 idols  
 but he also tuk vast amt horses  
 Dav wen captur horses, cut tendons so cud noB use as war horses  
 " no intrest in bild chariot army,  
 but Sol do jus oposit  
 Dav no increas silvr/gold on grand scal  
 but Sol did  
 It seem as tho Sol Bliev foreign wivs wudnt turn him fr G  
 " " " " " " horses wud mak him powful king  
 " " " " " " silvr & gold wud no corrupt him  
 & so Sol lean on his wisdm, afr all wasnt this G's gift?  
 & shudnt he use it evn if it conflic w/wat G wantd?  
 But G was & is much wiser than wisest of men  
 Wat G had sed wud hpn, did hpn & we read in 1 Ki 11:9-13  
 G had tol Is wat wud hpn if kings turn fr/Him  
 K Sol seem 2think he abuv wisdm of G, so he use wisdm, his human-  
 ity & wen lif lay rnd him in complet shambls, w/his hed in his  
 hands he cum 2conclusin=meaninglesnes, meaningles, everthing is  
 meaningles  
 Lif is no dif 2day, much of worl & many of worls peo hav sot 2do  
 ther own thing & wen lif is in shambls they cry out=Wats th  
 matter w/lif? Wats th/ansr 2lif?  
 (I' ) high school girl hippy & ansr she no want)  
 We nav ansr deep dwn insid us  
 but quest is=Do we want it?  
 Do we want th/ansr 2all of lif as G givs it?  
 In all his serch Sol finly fnd th/ansr & so mus we  
 It is involv in Plan A  
 G provids that ansr in Js Xp  
 If U R serch, let that serch end 2day  
 Xp id th/ansr, acpt His invitatin 2 cum un2 Him

## "Plan A"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3

If you were asked, "What is wisdom?", what would you say?

(Illustration of little girl & choice of money)

A little girl was visiting her aunt. The aunt decided to give her some money, but she wanted to give her, a choice. So she placed a quarter on the table, with a dollar bill next to it. Then she said, "Honey, you take your pick." The little girl looked at the money, then she said, "Mother always tells me to take the smallest thing, so I don't make a piggy out of myself. So I'll just take this coin, and I'll take this piece of green paper to wrap it in so it doesn't get dirty."

Webster's Dictionary defines wisdom as, "The power of judging rightly. In the Old Testament there are three books that are classified as Wisdom Literature. Can you name them? In case you may be struggling, they are Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. At first glance they can be classified as starting with patience and ending in despair. But that isn't a true picture of what the books paint.

In the next several weeks we are going to look at the book of Ecclesiastes and try to discover the true picture the author is seeking to give. The book is a reflection on the experiences of life as seen by the author from his perspective. Someone who was looking at life perhaps from a very rosy standpoint has said, "Life is just a bowl of cherries." In fact someone wrote a song of a few years back to that effect. But if life is supposed to be a bowl of cherries, for many, many people it is merely the pits. Life gives to us many, many questions that may remain unanswerable throughout all of life. Louis Goldberg a professor of Theology at Moody Bible Institute writes:

Why does God if He exists, permit catastrophes to happen such as the killing of people in war or through natural disasters?  
Why do as many as 100,000 die in an earthquake?  
Why do people fall ill?  
Why are children inflicted with incurable diseases and die before they even have an opportunity to live something of what this life has to offer?  
Is there really any meaning to life?

And then he adds:

Even though in one sense it may be a big question, most people try to extract some joy and pleasure from this life with their families in traveling, and in pursuing what passes for delight in this world.

The one theme that is most often picked up on this book is the theme of "Vanity" or "meaninglessness," of life. The author uses the word 33 times and the plural of it 4 times throughout the book. It would seem from this that the book is nothing but a book filled with despair. But that is not quite true. In fact, it gives some positive ideas to life and in order to discover that we will have to dig in the book to find it. But I believe the search will prove to be well worth it. Of necessity, we cannot draw out each and every verse, so we will be skimming through it. I would suggest that in order to understand ~~ix~~ the book better, you read it through several times, perhaps once a week as we go through it. I'll try to remember to give you your homework each week. For next week we will cover from verse 4 of the 1st chapter, through the 2nd chapter.

The author begins by saying, "The words of the preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem," verse 1.



King Solomon wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, but each was written at a different time in his life. Song of Solomon was written when Solomon was still in the fervor of his first love for God. Proverbs was written a little later depicting the wisdom given to him as a gift from God. Ecclesiastes was written in late old age and actually gave a testimony of his repentance of his apostasy. Solomon's defection from God had an adverse effect on him. He found that he was cut off from God, but this was by his own choice. He was left with only his wisdom to guide him and he was seeking to find life's meaning apart from God.

While Solomon was in fellowship with God he could write, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

But now years later his thinking was different. He was trying to reason out the meaning of life with the data available within the physical universe. So it is that he writes, "Vanity of vanities," says the preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity," verse 2.

He is saying, "meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless." Life had taken on the aspect of meaninglessness. For him at this point he could see no hope, no light at the end of the tunnel. And so he asks the question, "What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun?" verse 3.

He is asking the age old question, "What is the meaning, or the purpose of life? Is it to just work and slave for a lifetime? What is the advantage of that?"

To understand what Solomon is asking and how he has come to this point in his thinking we need to understand how he got ~~here~~ to this point of meaninglessness.

God had told the people of Israel that when they became settled in their "Promised Land," they would demand a king. He tells them of this in the book of Deuteronomy. In the 17th chapter this is spelled out. So it is that we read in the 16th and 17th verses, (read these) David, the father of Solomon followed this advice from God, but not completely. But he did a better job of it than did his son. David did have more than one wife, but not on the grand scale of Solomon. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines we are told.

When David captured horses he cut the tendons of those horses so they could not be used in battle and he refused to build a chariot based military establishment. David did not greatly increase silver and gold in the kingdom on a grand scale. But Solomon did all of these things contrary to what God wanted. Solomon seemed to believe that the foreign wives would not turn him from God. He seemed to believe that the great stables of horses and the chariots made him a powerful king. And he seemed to believe that the display of vast quantities of silver and gold set him apart as the most powerful king. Solomon leaned on his wisdom. After all, wasn't his wisdom God's gift? And shouldn't he use it, even if it conflicted with what God wanted? But God was much wiser than this wisest of men. What God had said would happen did and we read of this in 1st Kings the 11th chapter, (read verses 1-8).

It is then that we read in the 9th through the 13th verses, (read these).

God had told Israel what would happen if the kings turned from Him. King Solomon seemed to think that he was above the wisdom of God. So he used his wisdom, his humanity and when life lay around him in a complete shambles, with his head in his hands he called out "Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless."

Life is no different today. Much of the world and many of the world's people have sought to do their own thing and when all of life is a shambles they cry out, "What's the answer to life?"

(Illustration of high school girl "hippie" and the answer she didn't want)

A young high school teacher who was very popular with his students told of a conversation he had with one of the senior girls in the school. She said that she had become a "Hippie." She was in rebellion against the school, against her parents, and against the church. Her parents had given her everything except love. The church was a meaningless institution with nothing to say to real life. She was in rebellion against Christians because she said they were hypocrites.

But after talking to the teacher for over an hour she finally said, "Down deep in side I know that Jesus Christ has the answer to my life." And then half-defiantly, and half-wistfully she said, "But I just don't want that answer for my life."

We have the answer deep down inside of us. But the question is, "Do we want it?" "Do we want the answer to all of life as God gives it? In all of his searching, Solomon finally found the answer and so must we. God wants you to know Him and that is why He has provided Jesus Christ. If you are searching, let that search end today. Christ is the answer, accept His invitation to come unto Him.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 17, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Raymond Gamble and Robin Kaiser

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
Prelude "O For a Closer Walk With God"  
"Alleluia! Sing To Jesus"

Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 98 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) We offer you our thanks O God, for  
the rising of our Lord. But we also know we must come  
to you in confession. We confess to you our unwillingness  
at times to follow our Lord. We confess as well our  
willingness to sin even when we know we shouldn't.  
Forgive us Lord, cleanse us, and renew us, for we pray  
in His name. Amen.

\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 56 "God Will Take Care of You"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory "Majesty"  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "Reach Out To Jesus"  
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1: 12-18  
Sermon: "Plan A: The Search"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 96 "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

+ + + + + \*Congregational Greeting + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mr. & Mrs. George Pflugh in memory of their daughter  
Pam.

Mr. & Mrs. Rob Vinroe will greet our members and guests at  
the door this morning.  
Ushers serving today will be members of the Youth Group.  
Attendance last Sunday was 140 with 19 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Glenda Penar.  
Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

> Hospitalized: Mary Sherman in BMH.

> TUESDAY - Leadership Training class will be held at 7:00  
This is an opportunity for those who were nomina-  
ted for Elder or Deacon to receive their training.  
Also for anyone interested in the training.

> "CAUGHT" a movie produced by the Billy Graham organization  
is coming to Butler at the Plaza Theatre beginning April  
29th through May 5th. Tickets are now available in the  
office at a price of \$3.00 each. Tickets at the door  
will be \$4.00 per adult and \$2.50 for children. Hope  
you are planning to attend.

"Cry From the Mountain", another Billy Graham movie will  
be shown here at the church on May 15th. This movie  
is open to the public, so bring a friend or two.

> BIBLE STUDY will be held on Sunday evening at 7:00 P.M.  
Come join us for a more thorough study of God's word.  
CRIME WATCH neighborhood meeting will be held in Rehoboth  
Hall on April 26th from 7 to 9 P.M. This is for anyone  
interested in such a program.

Following the sermon we sing an invitation hymn, followed  
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for  
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations  
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself  
of this opportunity.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE  
WELCOMES YOU..  
APRIL 26, 1998**

PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

\*\*HYMN---Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine---# 67

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----At The Cross-----# 95

SCRIPTURE:      Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

SERMON:      "Plan A: The Search"

\*\*HYMN-----Through It All-----# 43

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

\*\* Please stand

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....**

\* We hope everyone had a nice time at the Bowling Party last Sunday. We'd like to thank the CHURCH for such a nice time.

\* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birthdates to JoAnn or Joyce.

\* **April 26, 1998:** Fellowship Dinner - After Church. Please plan to attend. Everyone is to bring a covered dish.

\* **April 26, 1998 :** Hymn Sing - 2 - 4 pm. Plan to bring your singing voice and or instrument with you. *WELCOME DISH ON MAY*

\* **May 3, 1998 :** Youth Group 6-8 pm. Please plan to attend we are doing something special.

\* **May 9, 1998 :** Lasagna Dinner 4 - 7 pm

*BOB WAGNER - THANK FLOWERS & DONATIONS*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

April 26-----Josh Leydic

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

Making the decision to have a child is momentous -  
it is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.

Elizabeth Stone

*GENE - & PROBLEM*

*LARA*

*DALE*

*UNFORGIVEN - JO ANN*



VSS 15-18=TIKS OFF MEANINGLESNES 3/  
OF LIF BY REASONING  
HE CUMS 2CONCL MOR KNOWLEDG PERSN HAS  
TH/MOR HE CANT UNDRST MEAN OF LIFE  
SO SOL THEN BGAN LOGICLY TEST THINGS  
OF LIF SUPOSDLY WUD BRING PLEASUR  
2:1 PLEASUR/ENJOYMENT=USELESS  
VS 6=LAFTER, DIDNT WORK EITHR  
VS 3=awine, THAT DIDNT SATISFY  
VSS 4-6=NONE OF THEZ BROT HAPINES  
VS 7=INCREAS SLAVS/CATTL DIDNT BRING  
HAPINES EITHR  
VS 8=MONEY/RICHES/ENTRTAINMENT & THIS  
DIDNT HELP  
VSS 9-11=ALL THIS TURND OUT 2B FUTILITY  
FOR HIM  
VSS 12-16=BOTH RICH/POOR,WISE/FOOLISH  
HAV SAME END & SOL LAMENTS.....  
VSS 17-20=THOTS ABOUT LIF/WORK  
VS 21=LEAV ESTAT 2HEIRS & HOW HANDL IT  
SO SOL ASK "WAT'S THE USE?"  
HE CUMS 2PLACE WHER SAYS .....  
VS 24a=LIV IT UP CUDB INTERP  
VS 24b=G IN CONTROL IF  
VS 25=WHO CAN HAV ANYTH APART FR/GOD???  
APART FR/G THER NO PLEASUR IN LIF,&  
THER NO ENJOY WAT WE HAV,& THER NO  
REST EXCEP PERSN RECOG WE GET WAT GET  
W/BLES OF GOD & IF STRIV DO IT APART  
FR/HIM LIF MEANINGLESS, OR VANITY  
VS 26=G LET SOL SERCH 4ANSRS ON HIS OWN  
SOL MAK COMP BLIEVR/UNBLIEVR & THIS  
7-PT OUT HIS ERTHLI MINSTRY  
n. 13= (TURN TO THIS)

1 KINGS 3

2/  
VS 3=TOL SOL WENT TO GIBEON 2SAC AT WAT CAL "TH/GRT HI PLACE"  
AT THIS TIME IT NO SIN BCUZ TEMPL NOT YET BILT  
READING ON WE R TOLD VSS 4-10  
SO<sup>r</sup> GRANTD HIS DESIR 2HAV wisdom  
1 ) GOD GRANTS HIM 2OTHR THINGS ..... VSS 11-15 - (READ)  
SOL AMAS MOR THAN A FORTUN IN HIS LIFETIME  
HE WAS ALWAYS ADD 2HIS TREASURY & 2HIS STABLES  
HE WAS TH/WELTHIEST MONARCH WHO EVR LIVD UP 2THAT TIME  
BUT AS LIF BGAN 2PASS HIM BY, & HE GREW 2B AN OLD MAN, HE  
DISCOVRD WELTH DIDNT BRING HAPNES W/IT  
IN FAC, IT BROT TH/CONCERN & CARE & WORRY OF HOW 2HOLD ON 2IT  
SO HE WAS SERCH 4ANSRS 2LIF, & IN OUR SCRIP THIS MORN WE R  
READING OF "HIS SEARCH"  
SOL HAD PROTESTD TH/FUTILITY OF MANY THINGS IN LIF & SO NOW HE  
STATES .....  
ECC 2:12 - (READ THIS)

MT 13:

4/  
JS HAD SPOKN 2LRG MULTITUDES IN PARABLE  
DISCIPS CUM TO HIM & WE READ ..... VS 10  
THEY QUESTIN VALIBITY OF THIS MANNR OF TEACHING  
VS 11=JS SAY DISCIPS R BLIEVRs & COMPLET REVELATIN IS W/HELD (19)  
FR/THOZ WHO R NOT TRU BLIEVRs  
VS 12=HERE IS TH/POINT SOL HAD REACHD MANY YEARS B4  
"OEVER HAS" - THIS REFERS TO BLIEVRs  
THOZ WHO HAV BIN GIVN TH/GIFT OF ETRNL LIF RECEIVD BY TRUST  
IN JS XP AS SAVIOR  
THEZ R TH/TRU CITIZENS OF TH/KINGDOM WHO HAV RECEIVD TH/KING  
WHOEVER ACPTS SALV FR/GOD "TO HIM SHAL MOR B GIVN"  
TH/PERSON WHO ACCEPTS WAT G HAS FOR HIM, "JS TH/LITE" MOR LITE  
SHALB GIVN  
GOD WIL ADD 2THAT PERSN HIS RICHES IN GLORY  
ALL THAT TH/FATHR HAS BCUMS TH/POSESIN OF HIS CHILDREN & JS SAYS,  
"HE SHAL HAV MOR ABUNDANC"  
BUT TH/FATE OF TH/UNBLIEVR IS JUST TH/OPOSITE  
"EVEN WAT HE HAS SHALB TAKN AWAY FR/HIM"  
HE IS TRY HOLD ON TO THINGS OF LIF & CANOT DO IT  
(ILUS T-SHIRTS ABOUT MOST TOYS - MAN STILL DIES)  
(ILUS 2MEN & SAME AMT OF MONEY & END RESULTS - DEATH)  
EVERTH OF THIS WORLDS GUDS, & ALL THAT TH/WORLD HAS TO OFFER  
WIL SLIP FR/THE GRASP OF THOZ WHO SEEK TO HANG ON TO IT, & TO  
HAV MORE & MORE -SOL DISCOVR THIS END CHAP 2  
SEEK YE FIRST TH/KINGDOM OF GOD & HIS RITUSNES - TODAY

Abraham Lincoln said:

Financial success is purely metallic. Th/man who gains it has 4 metallic attributes: gold is in his palm, silver is on his tongue, brass is in his face, and iron in his heart.

In 1923 grp worlds mos succesfl financiers met at Edge-wa Beach Hotel in Chicago. Collectivly thez tycoons controled mor welth than ther was in th/US treasury.

4 yrs th/newspaprs & magazins had bin print ther sucess storys & urging youth of natin 2folo ther example 27 yrs later, here is ther histry:

Charles Schwab-pres of lrges steel Co.-livd on boro mony th/las 5yrs his lif & dyd peniles

Arthur Cutten-grest wheat speculatr dyd abrod insolvent Richard Whitney-pres NY stok exch was releas fr/Sing/Sing

Albert Fall-a membr pres' cabnet was pardn fr/prison so he cud dy at home

Jesse Livermore-grest Bear on Wal St comit suicide

Leon Fraser-pres Bank of International Settlements-suicide Ivar Kruegar-Hed of worlds gratest monopoly- suicide

SCRIPT: ECC 112-10, 1000 11/17/2001

HOMEWORK NEX WK=ECC CHAP 3 -READ BUK  
(ILUS ABRAHAM LINCOLN - FINANCIL SUCE  
(ILUS SUCEs ACCORD WORL STANDRD WELTH)  
WORL FAMUS MEN YESTYR LERN 2MAK MONY  
BUT NO LERN HOW 2LIV

1/2 OF THEM HAS EVRONE LERN HOW???

NO,THEY TYPICL OF HUMN RACE

MAN HAS ALWAYS SOT THING 2MAK LIFE

EASIER & RICHER

(ILUS LOTTRY & "SUNTH FOR NUTHIN")

K SOL SUCED FATHR ON THRON & MAN LIK

THIS

START IN CORT,ACUST 2GUD LIF 2B LIVI

AS PART OF ROYL FAMLY

IN 1 KINGS CHAP 3, WE READ OF INTEREST

BAKGR OF SOLOMON'S LIFE

(TURN 1 KI 3, & EXPLAIN VSS 4-15)

VS 12-SOL NOW USE FIRST PERSON IN

IDENTFY SELF

AT BGIN SAY "THE PREACHER"

NOW IT IS "I, TH/PREACHER

SO HE SAYS ..... VSS 13-AND 17

HE SIMPLY SAY HE IS USE REASNING 2

DETERM WAT LIF ALL ABOUT

TH/REASN PROCES IS 2LK AT THINGS IN

LOGICL SEQUENC OF EVENTS

IT IS TH/OLD 2 PLUS 2 EQUALS 4

Philus man win lettry by b smart/lucky)

SOL SEEK FIND ANSR USE LOGICL

REASN & CUM CONCLUSIN ..... VS 14

conclusin=ALL IS MEANINGLESS & GRASP-

ING FOR TH/WIND

LIK TH/WIND, MUCH OF WAT DESIRBL IN LIF

CANOT B HELD IN ONE'S HAND



# "Plan A: The Search"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Homework: Read Ecclesiastes chapter three

(Ilus Abe Lincoln on "Financial Success")

(Ilus of Success accord 2 worl stndrd of welth)

Here wer worl famus men of yestyr who lern 2mak mony, but not 1 ha' lernd how 2liv

Thurs is no isolat series of livs fr/pas & sinc then evrone has lern 2liv

ther livs typicl of humn race

Man sinc Bgin of tim bin involv in ques 2mak lif easier/richer

Why do U supos stat lottrys R flourish all ovr USA?

peo fr/all walks lif seek 2get sumth 4 nuth; 2gain instan suces & riches & 2liv on Easy Street

K Sol succeed fathr Dav on thron, & he a man exactly lik this

start out in cort of fathr, a custom 2gud lif as part royl famly

1 Ki 3=tol Sol go 2 Gibeon 2 sac on Hi Places=(expl no abom then)

Aft templ bilt was abommatin

vs 4-15=Sol grant wisdm, but bonus as wel=riches/honor

Sol amas fortun in lif tim & keep add 2 treasury, & stables

He welthiest monarch evr liv up 2 that tim

As gru old, lif pas by & discover welth no bring hapnes w/it

in fac, it brot concern/care/worry how 2 hol on 2it

so he serch 4ansrs 2lif & in Scrip read of his SEARCH

Sol protes futilty of lif & many things in it & now stat=VS 12

now cum 2-1st persn in identfy self

in chap 1, vs 1 say=th words of preachr, now say=I preachr

vs 13=he say he use reasning 2detrmin wat lif all bout

reasn proces lk at things in logicl sequenc of events

it th/old system of 2 plus 2 equals four

(Ilus of man win lottry by B smart & lucky)

Sol seek 2find ansr by logicl reasn ' cum conclusin=VS 14

He lcks off meanlesnes of lif by reasn=VSS 15-18

cum conclusin mor knowledg persn has, mor canot undret th/mean of lif

So Sol Bgan logicy test thing of lif that suposdly wud bring pleasur

Vs 1=tried pleasur/enjoyment but was useless

Vs 2=try lafftr but didnt work w/thr

Vs 3A=wine but that no satisfy

Vs 4-6=nun this brot hapnes

Vs 7=slavs, cattl, increas holdings, but no hapnes eithr

Vs 8=reach 4riches, & didnt help

Vs 9-11=all pruv 2B futily 4 him

Vs 12-16=cum conclusin both rich/poor, wis/foolish hav sam end

So Sol laments=Vs 17-20

then he realiz=Vs 21

man may mak fortun, lv 2 heirs, but how handl it?

many times legacy is squandr & los in periud of tim & Sol say, Wats Th/Use?

Sol cum 2plac wher he say=Vs 24A

& this bring Sol 2 logicl conclusin=Vs 24B

It is fr/Hand of G, G in control of lif

Vs 25=apart fr/G ther no pleasur in lif, ther no enjoy of wat hav ther no rest 4 persn excep he recogniz we get wat we get with t hing of G

& if striv lif apart fr/Him lif meanles, it Vanity as Sol say

Sol cum 2mos logicl conclusin cud reach this tim

Remembr, G let him serch 4ansrs on his own Bcuz he had wallowd

in his humnty & G want him 2find out 4himself

So Sol state his conclusin=Vs 26

Here Sol cp persn who folowr of G, a Blievr in othr words, & a

persn who livs lif apart fr/G

Wat Sol say is wat Js sed in His erthly minstry not 2wel acpt

by hearers

Mt 13=Js spk in parabl & discip ask why

Vs 11=Js expl

Vs 12=Js maks pt Sol had reach many yrs B4

Whoevr has=refrs 2thoz who Bliev; thoz who hav bin givn gift of

etrl lif receiv by trust in Js Xp

Ther R th/Tru citizens of th/Kingdom who hav receiv King

Whoevr acpts salv fr/G=2 Him shal mor B givn

Th/persn who acpts wat G has 4him=Js The Lite, mor lite wilB givn

G wil add 2that persn His riches in Glory

All that Fathr has Bcums th/posesin of His childrn=& he shal

hav abundance

But fate of UnBlievr is jus oposit

Vs 12B=He try hol on things this lif, & cant do it

evrthin this worlde guds, all worl has 2offr, wil slip fr/grasp

He has no acpt th/Lite wh/G has givn & so wat he has shalB

away & givn 2othrs

Thurs conclusin Sol ariv at, at end chap 2

"Plan A: The Search"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Before we continue with our study of Ecclesiastes, for next week our homework is to read the third chapter of the book. If possible, read the entire book through once a week. In this way, you will get a feel of what Solomon is trying to say.

(Illustration of Lincoln on "Financial success")

Abraham Lincoln once said:

"Financial success, is purely metallic. The man who gains it has four metallic attributes: gold in his palm, silver on his tongue, brass in his face, and iron in his heart!"

(Illustration of "Success" according to world's standard of wealth)

In 1923 a group of the world's most successful financiers met at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Collectively, these tycoons controlled more wealth than there was in the United States Treasury, and for years the newspapers and magazines had been printing their success stories and urging the youth of the nation to follow their example.

Twenty-seven years later, here ~~ix~~ was their record.

Charles Schwab - the president of the largest independent steel company - lived on borrowed money the last five years of his life, and died penniless.

Arthur Cutten - the greatest wheat speculator - died abroad insolvent.

Richard Whitney - the president of the New York Stock Exchange - was released from Sing Sing Prison.

Albert Fall - the member of the President's Cabinet - was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.

Jesse Livermore - the greatest "bear" in Wall Street - committed suicide.

Leon Fraser - the president of the Bank of International Settlement- committed suicide.

Ivar Kruegar - the head of the world's greatest monopoly - committed suicide.

Here were world famous men of yesteryear who had learned how to make money, but not one of them had learned how to live. Theirs is not an isolated series of lives from the past and since then everyone has learned how to live. Their lives are typical of the human race. Man, since the beginning of time has been involved in a quest for the things to make life easier and richer. Why do you suppose the state lotteries are flourishing all across our nation? People from all walks of life are seeking to get something for nothing; to gain instant success and riches; and to ~~make~~ live life on "easy street."

King Solomon, David's son who succeeded him on the throne was a man exactly like this. He started out in the court of his father. He was accustomed to the good life to be lived as part of the troyal family. And when he assumed the throne he was not far from God's only son. That simple request was to have wisdom was to be a king.

W<sub>e</sub> are told in the Old Testament book of 1st Kings, chapter 3, that Solomon had gone to Gibeon to sacrifice. Actually, he was going to sacrifice at what was called "the high places." At this time it was not sinful, since the temple had not yet been built. But after the temple was built it was considered an abomination to the Lord. So it is we read in this 3rd chapter of 1st Kings, starting at the 4th verse, (Read verses 4 through 15). Solomon was granted not only wisdom from God, but an added bonus of riches and honor. Solomon amassed more than a fortune in his lifetime. He was always adding to his treasury and to his stables, so that he was the wealthiest monarch who had ever lived up to this time. But as life began to pass him by, and he grew to be an old man, he discovered that wealth didn't bring happiness with it. In fact, it brought the concern and care, and worry of how to hold on to it. So he was searching for the answers to life and in our Scripture for this morning we read of his "Search." Solomon has protested the futility of many things in life.



and now he states, "I, the preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem."

He now comes to the 1st person in identifying himself. In the very beginning of the book he had stated, "The words of the preacher." Now he says, "I, the preacher."

And then he set forth his search, In verses 13 and 17 he says, "I have set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom."

He is simply saying that he is using reasoning to determine what life is all about. The reasoning process is to look at things in a logical sequence of events. It is the old mathematical system of 2 plus two equals four.

(Illustration of man winning lottery by being smart and lucky)

There was a man not too long ago who had faith that he would win the big money in the lottery one day. Finally he did win the biggest prize. Asked how he did it, he said, "I was smart and I was lucky." He explained, "I like the number 7. I figured two 7's would be luckier than one, so I multiplied 7 times 7 and put all my money down on number 48 and I won!" But his friend protested, "7 times 7 is not 48, it's 49!"

The man replied, "I know, that's the lucky part."

Solomon was seeking to find the answer by logical reasoning and he comes to the conclusion as we read in the 14th verse, (read this). He ticks off the meaninglessness of life by reasoning, (read verse 15 through 18). He comes to the conclusion that the more knowledge a person has, the more he ~~thinks that he can~~ cannot understand the meaning of life.

So then Solomon began to logically test the things of life that supposedly would bring him pleasure. (Read 2:1), he tried pleasure, "and enjoyment, but it was useless. (Read verse 2), he tried laughter, but that didn't work either. (Read verse 3A), he tried wine and that didn't satisfy. (Read verses 4 through 6), none of this brought happiness. (Read verse 7), increasing his holdings with slaves and cattle, didn't bring happiness either. (Read verse 8), he reached out for money and riches and this didn't help. (Read verses 9 through 11), all of this turned out to be futility for him. (Read verses 12 through 16), he comes to the conclusion that both rich and poor, wise and foolish have the same end, and he laments, (read verses 17 through 20).

Then he realizes as well, (read verse 21). A man may make a fortune and leave it to his heirs, but how will they handle it? Many times, the legacy is not appreciated and is squandered and lost in a short period of time. So Solomon says, "What's the use?" He comes to the place where he says, (Read verse 24A). But Solomon came to the logical conclusion that (Read verse 24B). It is from the hand of God. God is in control of life. In fact, he says, (Read verse 25). Apart from God there is no pleasure in life; there is no enjoyment of what we have; and there is no rest except a person recognize that we get what we get with the blessing of God. And if we strive to do it apart from Him, life is meaningless, it is "Vanity" as Solomon says.

Then Solomon comes to the most logical conclusion that he could reach at this point. Remember, God is letting him search for the answers to life apart from God. He has wallowed in his humanity and God is letting him search for the answers on his own. So now, Solomon states his conclusion, (read verse 26). Here Solomon compares the person who is a follower of God, a believer in other words, and a person who lives life apart from God. What Solomon is saying is a point Jesus made in His earthly ministry which didn't sit too well with those who heard it. Matthew records this in the 13th chapter of his Gospel. If you will turn to

the 13th chapter of Matthew, you will note in the beginning of the chapter Jesus speaks to the people in a parable. His disciples ask Him why He spoke in parables and He gives them an explanation. In the 11th verse Jesus says, (read this). Then He makes the point that Solomon had reached many years before and in the 12th verse we read, (Read this).

"Whoever has," refers to those who believe. Those who have been given the gift of eternal life, received by trust in Jesus Christ. These are the true citizens of the Kingdom who have received the King. Whoever accepts Salvation from God, "To him shall more be given." The person who accepts what God has ~~for~~ him, "Jesus the Light," more light will be given. God will add to that person His riches in glory. All that the Father has, becomes the possession of His children, and "He shall have an abundance."

But the fate of the unbeliever is just the opposite. "Even what he has shall be taken away from him."

He is trying to hold on to the things of this life, he cannot do it. Everything of this world's goods, all that the world has to offer, will slip from his grasp. He has not accepted the Light which God has given and so what he has shall be taken away and given to others. This is the final conclusion Solomon arrived at in the end of the this 2nd chapter.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 24, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Robin Kaiser and Raymond Gamble

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 323 "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession ( In Unison) Almighty God, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, help us in the days of our flesh to minister like Him. Keep our tempers cool and our spirits calm; make us brave to fight for the right and to stand firm against those who would oppress the weak. Give grace to us that we may know that He is our living Lord, and strength to follow in His footsteps; in His name we pray. Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 601 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offortory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Alleluia! Rise Up and Sing"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

Sermon: "Plan A: The Design"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 621 "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed in memory of Lawson Hindman by Fanchon and Joy Hindman.

Mr. & Mrs. Gottlob Kradel will greet our members and friends this morning at the door.

Ushers for today are Don Kingsley, Dick Mangel, Dick Dally, and George Pflugh.

Attendance last Sunday was 134 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Dave Brinker and Dave Sacco.

Ken Draxinger, Lloyd Link, and Rick Vinroe will be visiting the hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Mrs. Sue Gamble in BMH. <sup>OUT</sup> JAMIE MANIART  
KEN WEITZEL

Charlie Penar is in Sugar Creek Home

> "CAUGHT" insert in today's bulletin is a reminder that the showings of this timely, action-filled story begins in less than a week. This flier reveals a part of the exciting story without revealing the heart stopping high points of the film. Share this flier with your friends and invite them to the movie. Tickets are still available through the office until Wednesday. Please stop by and get them now. We ask that you continue to pray that God will mightily bless these showings and that many will come to know the Savior! Dates are April 29 thru May 5 at the Plaza Theatre. Check the newspaper for times.

> "Cry From the Mountain", another Billy Graham movie will be shown here at the church on May 15th. It is open to the public, so bring a friend to the movie. Refreshments will be served. There is now admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken.

> Bible Study is being held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 P.M. Why don't you come and join us as we study God's word more thoroughly.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

SCRIP: ECC 3:1-11; SERMON: "PLAN A: DESIGN"

HOMEWORK: READ CHAPTERS 4 & 5 - (ONLY 12 entire book)  
IF READING - "THE ONE YEAR BIBLE," - NEW INT VERSION,  
TH/READING OF THIS IS SEPTEMBER 3rd OF THAT BIBLE  
1st GUD IDEA 2READ FR/VARIUS VERSINS 2GET TASTE WAT BAKING PLAC  
FOR 2DAY I READ 6 DIFFERENT VERSINS)

(ILUS CARDINAL NEWMAN QUOTE BOUT NOT LIVING)

TIME IS SUBJ TALK BOUT QUITE OFTEN  
(ILUS COMPANY COFFEE BREAK, 5DAYS WK EQUAL 43 1/3 HRS PER YR)

(ILUS PROPL & THER USE OF TIME IN HISTORY)

TIME IS AVAILBL & TIME CANB FND 2DO ANTH IF DESIR THER

K SOL LK LIF 2DETERM JUS WAT ALL BOUT

AS HE SERCH 4MEAN 2LIF, IN OLD AGE CAM CONCL ---- VS 1

HIS CONCL=G GIVN TIME/PLACE 4EVERTHING

SO IN HIS THINK HE DEDUCE THER SUM SORT "PATTERN" OR "DESIGN"

IN ALL OF THIS

SO HE BGIN TICK THERZ ITEMS OFF, ONE BY ONE.....

VS 2=HE RECOG SPAN OF LIF

BORN - LIV-- DIE, ACORD TO SET SCHEDUL OR "DESIGN"

HE ACKNOWL FARMR GO OUT PLANT SPEC FIC TIME OF YR

NO FARMR WUD GO OUT MIDL WINTP, PLOW FROZN GRND PLANT CORN

HE WAIT TIL SPR & PREP FIELD THEN PLANT

THEN THER TIME 4REAP/HARVES WEN CROP REDY & NOT B4

VS 3-8=THIS SOL LIST & GO THRU ONE BY ONE & GIV CONTRAST 2EA

THERZ TIMES/EXXLES REASONS R IN CYCLES & HE C LIF AS B'CYCLICAL

SO AFTR LK AT CYCLES HE ASKS QUESTIN .....

VS 9=WAT GAIN DUZ A MAN GET FR/HIS WORK???

TH/ANSWER HE CUMS UP WITH IS VSS 10-11A - .....

TEVR MAN'S WORK IS, G USES IT 2SUIT HIS PURPS & EVRTH IS

ORDRLY ARRAY

EBRTH G DUZ IS ACORD HIS DELIB PLAN & NUTH DUN AT RANDOM

SOL WAS SAY EVRY PERSNS WORK HELPS CONTRIB 2THAT PLAN SUM WAY

BUT THER IN THIS A MYSTRY WH/MAN SEEKS 2UNRAVEL & SOL SAYS.....

VS 11B=NEW AM STNRD VERSIN READS -----

"HE HAS ALSO SET ETRNTY IN THER ~~XXRTS~~ HART, YET SO THAT MAN WIL

NOT FIND OUT TH/WORK WH/GOD HAS DUN FROM TH/BGIN EVN 2 TH/END"

W/IN MAN IS SERCH 4LIFS MEAN & SOL KNU MAN ONLY LIV CERT NUMBER

YRS, BUT THER MUSB SUMTH MOR THAN THIS

AND AS HE PONDR THIS HE SAY G HAS GIVN TH/THOT OF AN ETRNTY,

A GLIMPSE OF A LIF BYON, BUT MAN UNABL 2UNDRST ALL G HAS DUN,

OR WIL DO

VS 12=SOL ENCOURAG EVRONE 2SEEK 2DO WAT IS RT/JUST WHIL IV ON

UNDRLY THEORY=LIF 4ANB ENJOY, NO NEED 2SEEM USELES ERTH

VS 13= READ

VS 17=LIF CAN BAY BEAN & FORT IN OF LIF FR/ MAN HOS LABOR/TOIL 2/

FR/THAT LABOR CAN GAIN SATISFACTIN CUDNT DERIV ANY OTHR WAY  
AND ISNT IT A JOY 2B ABL ACOMPLISH SUMTH W/HANDS OR MIND & TO  
KNO THAT TH/LABOR HAS BIN WORTHWHIL????

VSS 14-15=SOL CUM 2PT WHER THINK TERMS G'S WIL & ULT EVRTH IS IN

G'S CONTROL

SO AS HE THINKS OF G, HIS THOTS TURN 2REALTY GUD/EVIL, RITUS NES

JD EVIL & HE OBSERVS ..... VS 16 - (READ)

WE THINK IN OUR TIME WE HAV CORUPT JUDGS/SNATORS/PRESIDENTS, BUT

THER IS NO CORNER ON THAT MARKET

IT HAS BIN THIS WAY THRU ALL OF HISTRY & WIL CONTINU SO

(ILUS RUEY LONG, LOUISIANA POLITICIAN & HIS DECEIT)

NEED WE SAY MORE???

POWER & MONEY ALWAYS TALKS TO THOZ WHO CANB BOT

THUS IT WAS THAT SOL HAS CUM 2SERIOUSLY THINK THRU LIFE & MEANING

IN EA INSTANC G HAS LET HIM DO THIS FR/HUMAN STNDPOINT

BUT THAT SERCH ALWAYS BRING BAK 2START PT

AND THAT STARTING PT IS GOD

EVRTH IN LIF BGIN & ENDS W/GOD

MAN MAY NOT ALWAYS BLIEV SO, BUT JUS LK WISE K SOL TH/TOTAL ~~WIS~~

WISDOM OF LIF 4ANYTH & EVRBODY IS GOD

SO SOL HAV THOT THIS THRU SEES GOD'S "DESIGN & SAYS .....

VS 17=LIK SED VS 1, NOW THER WILB TIME JUDGMENT 4EVNONE

NO ADVANTAG B WELTHY, POSSES EVRTH, B WISE,

NUTH WIL STOP G'S JUDGMENT OR ESCAP FROM IT

VS 18=WHY HE SAY THIS??

VSS 19-20=ALL MUS DY MAN & BEAST

HE WRIT OF "BREATH" & KNU THER DIF TWEEN MAN/BEAST

SOL KNU FR/MOSES WRIT G BRETH IN2 MAN "BREATH OF LIFE"

HE MERLY SAY G CONTROL BRETH OF BOTH MAN/BEAST & WEN STOP BREATH

NEITHER DIF FR/OTHR

VS 21="SPIRIT" - GOD BREATHED - R - U - A - C - H

BRETH OF LIF IN MAN, & NOT ANIMALS & THIS IS DIF

VS 22=CONCLUSIN - MAN SHUDB CONTENT 2LIV LIF WATEVR LOT MAYB

SHUD KNO G IN CONTROL & NOT WORRY BOUT WAT WIL TAK PLACE AFTR

G HAS CALLD FR/THIS LIF

QUITE SIMPLY=SOL FND CUDNT EXPLAIN GOD COMPLETELY

HE JUS KNU GOD HAD BROT HIM THRU ALL OF THIS

(ILUS FRANZ WERFEL & MIRACL AT LOURDES & STORY BHIND THIS)

THIS ABOUT ALL WE CAN SAY 2ANYONE IN LIFE

"FOR THOZ WHO BLIEV IN G, NO EXPLANATIN IS NEEDED;

FOR THOZ WHO DO NOT BLIEV IN GOD, NO EXPLANATIN IS POSIBL"

SEEK HIM, & CUM 2KNOW HIM IN UR LIF, THRU CHRIST



**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE**  
WELCOMES YOU..

May 3, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

\*\*HYMN-----A King Is Coming-----#313

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN--Like A Lamb Who Needs The Shepherd--# 61

SCRIPTURE:      Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

SERMON:      "Plan A: The Design"

\*\*HYMN-----Reach Out To Jesus-----#430

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

\*\* Please stand

*SIGN UP SHEET CHURCH CLEANING*  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....**

\* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birth dates to JoAnn or Joyce.

\* **May 3, 1998** : Youth Group 6-8 pm. Please plan to attend we are doing something special.

\* **May 9, 1998** : Lasagna Dinner 4 - 7 pm

\* Laura Abbey is doing better. Thank you for your PRAYERS!

\* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

\* Easter Egg Sales: Profit \$972.75 -- Last chance to buy a homemade Easter Egg before you are to late: See Matilda.

\* The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

May 3-----Don Bailey

May 9-----Ryan Shotts

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...**

May 4---George and Chris Mikeska

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

WORK FOR THE LORD, THE PAY

ISN'T MUCH,

BUT HIS RETIREMENT

PLAN IS OUT OF THIS

WORLD....

--Source Unknown

*PAUL*

*HELEN*

*BERNARD*

*GENE*

*SUE - CANCER?*

*EMMA*

*RUBY*

*TRAVEL*

*BILL - HEART*

*FAMILY*

*UNKNOWN - PEG*

*LAURA -*

Plan A: ~~Rev~~ The Design"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Homework=Ecclesiastes 4: & 5

(Ilus Carnal Newman quote)

Tim is subj talk bout quit often

Di<sup>d</sup> U kno 4instanc-1Omin coffy brk,5days wk add to 43 1/3 hrs

i<sup>i</sup> rs tim? Thats ovr 1 wks vacatin time

(Ilus peopl & use of time)

Tim is avail1,& tim canB fnd 2do anyth if desir is ther

K Sol was lk lif 2determ jus wat it all about

& as serch 4mean of lif in his old age,cam 2conclusin=Vs 1

Conclusin=G had givn tim & plac 4evrthing

in his think cam 2deductin ther sum sort pattern=Design in all this

he Bgin tik of items 1 by 1

vs 2=span of lif;we born/dy/liv acord set schedul=Design

ex=farmr no plant in wintr;crops ripn harv etc

thez times in cycles & he name -vss 3-8

vs 9=aftr cycles ask quest??

Sol ansr vss 10-11A

watevr mans work is G uses 2suit His purps & evrth ordrlly aray

evrth G duz acord delib plan & nuth dun at random

Sol say evrones work help contrib 2that plan sum way

But ther stil mysty in all this wh/man need unravl,Sol say=11B

w/in man ther serch 4lif mean & he knu man only liv cert # yrs

but ther musB sumth mor than this

& as Sol pondr this,he say G giv man thot etrnty,a glimps of

lif Byon,but man unabl undrst all G dun,or wil do

Sol encourag evrl=Vs 12

evrl shud seek do wat just & rite whil on erth

th undrly theory here is lif canB enjoy & no need seem useles

vs 13=lif can hav purp & mean in spite fac man has 2 labr/toil

fr/labr man can gain satid wh/cudnt deriv any othr way

isnt it joy 2B abl acompl sumth w/hands/hed/hart & kno labr worth

Sol cum think terms G's wil & ultly evrth in G's control & Sol

say=Vss 14-15

So he thinks of G & thots turn 2realty of gud/evil-ritnes/evil

Vs 16-we think our times corrup=evr bin,alway wilB=mony talks/buys

thus Sol cum seriously think thru lif & its meaning

in ea instanc can C G let him think thru fr/Completly human vu

but serch alway bring bak 2 start pt & that is=GOB

Evrth in lif Bgin & end w/G

man not alway think so/Bliev so,but jus lik this wis K Sol,totl

wisdom of lif 4anyth & evrbody is=GOD

Sol hav thot all this thru at this pt C8s G's design

says=Vs 17

Jus as at Bgin=vs 17 say it agin

Sol cum conclus,serius conclusin involv man=Vs 18

2/

at this pt he think man & beast R th/same

& why wud he say this???

nex Vss he says=Vss 19-20=regardles man/beast all mus dy

ea 1 return 2dus of grnd fr/wh cam is wat Sol say

But ther w/in this pasag a deep meaning

Sr<sup>r</sup> knu in G's Word ther distinctin tween man & beast

h. knu in Moses writs in Gen tel how G breathd in2 man breth

of lif,but G no do same 4 beasts

Wat Sol say=altho man sepat/distinc fr/beast G stil giv breth

2 ea & He control that breth,& so man & beast R alik in that

wen stop breath,they both ded

Then he ask quest that seem as tho he no hav ansr 2lif aftrall

Vs 21=takn at 1st glanc it appear as questin of UnBliev

but wat he actuly say is=Who Knows,or,How few R awar that breth

of man ascend upwrd & breth of beast descen dwnward 2 th/erth

Ther is a dif

Wen G breath in2 man breth of lif,Gen tel us=man Bcam liv Being

man has w/in breth of G & Heb word=RUACH

it litrly mean=breth,wind,Spirit

& distinctin tween soul/spirit=Soul is NEH FESH=his persn pr indiv

Spirit is th animating principle

it Sp that giv lif 2 th/body & wen persn dy Sp lvs body 2liv in

etrnty

But beast/animal no hav RUACH or Spirit w/in him

Sol knu cud no undrst all G's Design or interp so conclud by say

Vs 22=Man shudB conten 2liv lif watevr lot mgyB,kno that G in

control & not worry wat wil hpn afr gon fr/this lif

quit simply Sol fnd cudnt expl G completly

He jus knu G brot him thru all this

(Ilus Franz Werfel,miracl at Lourdes,& story Bhin buk/movie)

This bout all cud say bout anyl in this lif

4 pz who Bliev in G,no expl is needed

4 Thoz who do not Bliev in G,no expl is possibl



RUACH-Breth, wind Spirit = ANIMATING  
NEH Fesh -life, soul PRINCIPLE

FRANZ WERFEL - AUSTRIAN JEW  
SONG OF BERNADETTE

MOVIE PREFACE:

FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD,  
NO EXPLANATION IS NEEDED.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN  
GOD,  
NO EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE.

Cardinal Newman lnce sed:

Fear not that Ur lif shal cum 2 an end,  
but rathr, that it shal nevr hav a Bgining

Bunyn wrot-Pilgrims Progres fr/jail  
Florenc Nitingale 2 ill 2mow fr/her bed, reorg hosps of  
England

Seh-parlyzd undr constan menac of apoplexy, Louis Pasteur  
was tireles in his attak on diseas

Am historian Francis Parkman suffr so acutly dur grtr  
part of lif, cudnt work mor than 5min at time  
eysite so wretchd cud only scrawl few gigantic words on  
manuscrip, yet was abl 2writ 20 vols of histry

HOME WORK CHAPS 4 & 5

COFFEE BRK - 10 MIN - 5 DAY WK  
AMTS TO 43 1/2 HRS IN YR  
OVER A WEEKS VACATION

"Plan A: The Design2

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

(Illustration of not living, by Cardinal Newman)

Cardinal Newman once said, "Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather that it shall never have ~~had~~ a beginning."

Time is a subject that is talked about quite often. Did you know for instance, that the 10 minutes coffee break, 5 days a week adds up to  $43 \frac{1}{3}$  hours in a year's time? That is over one week's vacation in time.

(Illustration of people andt their use of time)

Bunyan wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" from jail; Florence Nightingale too ill to move from her bed, reorganized the hospitals of England; Semi-paralyzed and under the constant menace of apoplexy, Louis Pasteur was tireless in his attack on disease; And during the greater part of his life the American historian Francis Parkman suffered so acutely that he could not work for more than five minutes at a time. His eyesight was so wretched that he could only scrawl a few gigantic words on a manuscript, yet he was able to write 20 volumes on history.

Time is available, and time can be found to do anything if the desire is there. King Solomon was looking at life to determine just what it was all about. And as he searched for the meaning of life in his old age he came to the conclusion, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven," verse 1.

He had come to the conclusion that God had given a time and place for everything. ~~And then~~  
~~he begins to tick off these items off these xxxxxx~~ In his thinking he came to the ~~xxx~~ deduction  
that there was some sort of pattern, or "Design" in all of this. He begins to tick these  
items off one by one. ~~xxxxxxx~~ He says, "A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to  
plant, and a time to uproot what has been planted," verse 2.

He recognizes the span of life. We are born, we live, we die, and this is according to a set schedule, or a "Design." He acknowledges that the farmer goes out and plants at a specified time according to the season. No farmer would go out in the middle of winter and plow frozen fields to plant corn or other crops. He waits until the spring arrives and then he prepares his fields and he plants. And then there comes the time of reaping, or harvesting. This isn't done when the crop ~~is~~ hasn't ripened. Instead it is done when the crop is ready. And so it is that Solomon goes through his list of things he has been thinking about and names them one by one with the contrast to each one. These times and seasons are in cycles and he sees life as being cyclical.

But after looking at the cycles of life, Solomon asks the question, "what profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils?" verse 9.

The question is, "What gain does a man have from his work?" And Solomon answers this by saying, "I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. He has made everything appropriate in its time," verses 10 and 11A.

Whatever man's work is, God uses it to suit His purposes and everything is in orderly array. Everything that God does is according to His deliberate plan and nothing is done at random. Solomon was saying that every person's work helps to contribute to that plan in some way.

But there is in all of this a mystery which man seeks to unravel. Solomon says, "He has also set eternity in their hearts yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning to the end," verse 11B.

Within man is the search for life's meaning. He knew that man only lived for a certain number of years, but there must be something more than this. And as he pondered this he says



that God has given man the thought of an eternity, a glimpse of a life beyond, but man is unable to understand all that God has done, or will do.

So Solomon encourages everyone, "I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime," verse 12.

Everyone should seek to do what is just and right while living on this earth. The underlying theory here is that life can be enjoyed and it need not seem useless. He says, "Moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor-it is the gift of God," verse 13.

Life can have purpose and meaning in spite of the fact that ~~as~~ a man has to labor and toil. From that labor he ~~can~~ gain a satisfaction which he couldn't derive any other way. And isn't it a joy to be able to accomplish something with your hands or your mind and know that the labor has been worthwhile?

Solomon has come to the point where he thinks in terms of God's will and that ultimately, every thing is in God's control and that is why he says, (read verses 14 and 15).

And so as he thinks of God, his thoughts turn to the reality of good and evil; of righteousness and evil. He observes, (read verse 16). We think that in our time we have corrupt judges and ~~xxxxxx~~ public officials, but there is no corner on that market. Money always talks to those who can be bought.

Thus it is that Solomon has come to seriously think through life and its meaning. In each instance we can see that God has let him think things through from his completely human viewpoint. But that search always brings him back to the starting point. And that starting point is God. Everything in life begins and ends with God. Man may not always believe so, but just like this wise King named Solomon, the total wisdom of life for anything and everybody is God.

So Solomon having thought all this through at this point sees God's "Design." He says, "I said to myself, 'God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,' for a time for every matter and for every deed is there," verse 17

Just as he had said at the beginning of this writing, "There is an appointed time for everything, so there will be a time of judgement for everyone. He sees that there is no advantage to being wealthy, or to possess all of the world's goods. There isn't anything that will stop the eventual and ultimate judgement of God. Every person must stand before God to give account for his life. Solomon in his old age is looking at the limited days he has left in this life and he ~~is~~ has come to the conclusion that no one can escape God and His judgement. So it is that Solomon now comes to the serious conclusion involving ~~his~~ man. He says, "I said to myself concerning the sons of man, 'God has surely tested them in order for them to see that they are but beasts,'" verse 18.

At this point he is thinking that man and beast are the same. And why would he say this?

In the next verse he writes, "For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity, ~~xxxxxxxix~~ All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust," verses 19 & 20.

Regardless of whether it is a man or a beast, all must die. And each one returns to the dust of the ground from which it came is what Solomon is saying. But there is within this passage the meaning concerning the breath of life. Solomon knew that God's Word tells how there is a distinction between man and beast. He knew that in Moses writings he told how God breathed

into man the breath of life, but God didn't do the same for the beasts. But what Solomon is saying here is that although man is separate and distinct from the beasts, God still gave breath to each and He controls that breath, and so man and beast are alike in that when the man or beast stop breathing, neither is any different from the other. And then he asks the question that seems as though he doesn't have the answers to life after all. He asks, "Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth?" verse 21.

Taken at first ~~glance~~ glance it appears like a question of an unbeliever. But what he is asking is, "Who knows," or "How few are aware that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth?" There is a difference. When God breathed into man the breath of life, we are told in Genesis, man became a living being. Man has within him the Breath of God and the Hebrew word for this is "RUWACH." It literally means breath, wind or spirit. The distinction between soul and spirit is that the soul or Neh-fesh in Hebrew is the person himself as an individual, while spirit is the animating principle. It is the spirit that give life to the body and when a person dies the spirit leaves the body, to live on in eternity. But the animal doesn't have the "Ruach" or spirit within him. Solomon knew that he couldn't understand all of God's Design or interpret it, so he concludes by saying, "And I have seen that nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot. For who will bring him to see what will occur after him?" Man should be content to live his life whatever his lot may be, knowing that God is in control and not worry what will happen after he is gone from this life. Quite simply, Solomon found that he could not explain God completely. He just knew that God had brought him through all of this.

(Illustration of Franz Werfel and his miracle at Lourdes, & story behind movie & book)

This is about all we can say to anyone in life. "For those who believe in God, no explanation is needed; for those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible."



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 1, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Wendy Norman  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 325 "All Hail the Power of  
Jesus' Name"

\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) O God, who hast brought us into  
this fellowship with one another through thy Son Jesus  
Christ: let us be one in thought and mind and spirit.  
Help us to strive not to be individuals but to be a  
group of fellow believers. Forgive us in our weakness  
of turning from thee. Give us strength as we need it  
in our times of turmoil and frustration. Help us to  
live in the world, but not in all of it. Make our  
wills obedient to thine, for we ask it all in Jesus'  
name.....Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 625 "Lord, Speak to Me"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us Pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "I Need Thee Every Hour"

Piano

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "I Will Joyfully Sing!"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5: 18-20

Sermon: "Plan A: To Overcome"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 623 "The Longer I Serve Him"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been place in  
memory of Mother & Father by Mrs. Ellen Schildroth.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Bowser will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Frank  
Crawford, and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 118 with 8 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Barb and Chris Andrews.  
Art Snyder and Howard Jaillet will be visiting the hosp-  
ital this week.

>Hospitalized: Ellen Schildroth, Kenneth Weitzel in BMH.

>"CAUGHT" the newest Billy Graham film opened this past  
Friday and many of you may have already seen it. We  
look forward to reports of how God is using this tool  
to touch and transform lives all through out Butler.  
If you have not yet seen CAUGHT, be sure to make plans  
now, as this will be a limited engagement. The film is  
presented daily at the Plaza Theatre. Please check the  
local newspaper for times and matinees.

LAYMEN'S DINNER is scheduled for May 19 at 6:30 P.M. at  
St. Peter's U.C.C. in Zelienople. This is also "Ladies  
Night", and reservations must be made by May 8th. See  
Jake Harmon for tickets. \$4.00 each.

>Bible Study is being held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 P.M.

>If you have a free evening, why not join us and learn  
more of what God wants for us.

>"Cry From the Mountain", another Billy Graham movie will be  
shown here at the church on May 15th. It is open to the  
public, so bring a friend to the movie. We will be  
having popcorn at the movie. No admission will be charg-  
ed, but a free will offering will be taken for movie  
rental.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed  
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for  
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations  
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your  
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation  
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to  
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor  
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of  
this opportunity.

SCRIP: ECC 5:18-20; SERMON: "PLAN AT 10 OVERCOME"

HOMEWORK: ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 6, (SEPT 3, ONE YR BIBLE, NIV)

(ILUS SUCCESS, SIX YOUNG LADIES & RESULTS)

(ILUS RUSSELL CONWELL, & BOOK "ACRES OF DIAMONDS")

TENDENCY 2LK BYON & C GRAS GREENR OTHR SIDE FENCE

SC EXAC LK THIS & ALTHO HAD MOS WELTH OF WORL FELT STRNG LONG

HE MISS OF WAS MISS SUMTH ALONG TH/WAY

SO BGAN SERCH 4TRU ANSR 2LIF & IN SO DO,PUT THOTS IN WRITING

AS SOT 2THINK THIS THRU

MUCH 1ST 4CHAPS THIS B K SPOK OF "VANITY," OR MEANINGLESNES OF

MUCH OF LIF

AS HE LK AT LIF,CAM CONCL TH/MEAN OF LIF,REAL ESENC OF MAN'S

EXISTENC HAD 2INCLUD G, OR IT MEANINGLESS

AT BGIN CHAP VS 1=HE THINK HERE TERMS TEMPL WORSHIP

SYNAGOGUES NO IN EXISTENC THIS TIME, BCUZ JER/TEMPL PLACE WORSHIP

KNU HISTRY OF JEWS MAY BIN THINK BAK 1ST K SAUL & HIS DISOBE

1 SAMUEL 15:2-3

VS 1=TRU WORSH CONSID DO WAT G WANTS,NOT WAT WE THINK IMPORANT

2OBEY G IS ACT OF WORSH BCUZ IT MEAN WE BOW 2HIS WIL,HIS WSHES

NOT OUR OWN

VSS 2-7A=ADVICE B OBEY, B SINCERE

VS 6=ANGEL, BETTR MESSENGER, OR PRIEST

VS 7A=DREAMS, MEANINGLES

VS 7B=COMPLET SURENDR 2 GOD, BODY,SOUL,SPIRIT

THAT IS TRU WORSHIP BCUZ IT GIVS 2 GOD TH/COMPLET LIF HE GIVN US

(ILUS JOHN WESLEY & IF HE WER 2DY AT MIDNITE)

THIS TRU WORSH,THGIV 2 GOD OF COMPLET SELF,EVRTH WE HAV,EVRTH WE

R, INCLUD EA PART OF OUR LIVS

SECOND PT SOL MAK:

IT INVOLV LK AT LIF STNDPT OF POWER & MONEY

V 10=TH/LUV OF MONEY IS NOT TH/ANSR

SOL W/HIS WISDOM HAD CUM 2PT OF UNDRST TH/BASIC PT OF LIF,HE SAY

VSS 13-16=ERTHLY TREASURS BRNG W/THEM PROBS

ANXIETY, PAIN, THEY DISAPPEAR THRU BAD BUSNES & LEFT WEN DY

THIS WAT JS SED IN SERM ON TH/MT. - MT 6:19-24 - (TURN TO THIS)

VSS 18-20=BASIC & SIMPLY SOL SAY, WHETHR PERSN RICH/POOR OF NO

CONSEQUENC IN TH/LIV OF THIS LIF

BOTH CLASS HAV OWN SET PROBS/CARES

IMPORT=EA PERSN LERN TRU :ESSN LIF &

THAT IS TO OVR COME,2RISE ABUV CIRCS

OF LIF,

AND TO LIV LIF AS G GIVS 2EA PERSON

IN TH/PROCES OF LIV TH/INDIVID LERNS

2ENJOY LIF EVN IN MIDST TH/CARES

WH/LIF ENGENDERS

MT 6:19-24

VSS 19-21=IF ALL U THINK/WORRY BOUT IS UR STOK PORTFOLIO, U

DONT HAV MUCH TIME 4THOTS OF GOD

NO SAY ANYTH WRONG W/HAV WELTH

HE SAY GATHR, PILEUP POSSESSNS NOT MOS IMPORT THING OF LIF

VSS 22-23=CP LITE/DARKNES - GUD/EVIL IF U WIL

VS 24=CANNOT LET MONEY/WELTH CONTROL U OVR ALL ELSE

THESE MUST BALANC TO LIF

WE MUST LERN 2TAK TIME 4THINGS OF GOD ALONG W/THINGS OF LIFE

THIS CONCLUSIN SOL HAD BIN LERN IN HIS LIFE

BUT SOL SAW ONE LAS THING WEN HE WRIT HIS THOTS & WORDS

HE SUMS IT UP IN THE LATTR PART THIS CHAPTR 5

VSS 18-20 we read OUR SCRIP 4THIS MORN - (TURN BAK TO THIS)

1 SAM 15:2-3

VSS 2-3=G'S INSTRUCTS 2SAUL & ISRAELITES

VSS 7-9=SAUL'S WARFARE

BUT WAT SAUL DID WAS DISPLEAS TO TH/LORD & WE READ .....

VSS 10-11=SAM IS GRIEVD BY THIS, HIS CONCERN AS TH/PRIEST OF ALL

T 7EO GRIEVD HIM THAT SAUL DISOBEYED

VS 12=SAM CONFRONT NAML SAUL, & SAW REPORT

VS 14=SAM ASKD BOUT ANIMALS, IF ALL WER DESTOYD AS G ASK

VS 15=SAUL'S ANSR "IT WAS THEM, THAT DID IT"

(EXAMPL ADAM BLAM EVE, EVE BLAM SERPENT, ETC, ETC, EVN 2DAY)

VSS 16-19=SAM EXPL WAT SAUL WAS 2DO ACCORD 2 TH/INSTRUCTS OF GOD

VSS 20-21=SAUL INSIST ON BLAM OTHERS

VSS 22-23=SAM SEZ=OBEDIENC IS BETTR THAN SACRIFICE

THIS IS ACTULY WAT SOLOMON IS SAY IN 1st VS CHAP 5 OF ECC

HE SAY=B OBEY TO TH/L RATHR THAN THINK EVRTH IN WORSH RISES &

FALLS ON TH/PROPR SACRIFICE

(TURN BAK 2CHAP 5, ECCLESIASTES)

2/



4/  
QILUS MOTHER BAD DAY, DIAL APRAYR)

2B ABL 2OVRUM IS WAT XPIANTY TEACH  
UR CIRCUMS MAY SEEM IMPOSIBL MANY  
TIMES,

U MAY FEEL UR TH/ONLY BLIEVR IN THE  
ENLARE CROWD,

BUT WE R CALLD 2OVERCOME

(ILUS PICTUR OF PICTUR OF MISSIONARY)

WORLD MAY VIEW AS FAILSURE, BUT IN SITE  
OF GOD ANYONE LIK THAT SERV GOD HAS  
OVERCOME TH/WORLD

JESUS SED JN 16:33:

I HAV OVERCOME THE WORLD

SO WE NEED FEAR NOT

BCUZ HE HAS OVRUM TH/WORLD, SO CAN  
WE

R U WIL 2TRUS HIM W/UR ENTIR LIF FROM  
NOW ON?

R U WIL 2TRUS HIM FR/TODAY ON????

THIS WEEK???????

WIL U ANSR HIS CALL & OVERCOME?????

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE

WELCOMES YOU..

May 10, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

\*\*HYMN-----Heaven Came Down-----#657

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----The Light Of The World-----#636

SCRIPTURE:      Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

SERMON:      "Plan A: To Overcome"

\*\*INVITATIONAL HYMN----He Touched Me-----#628

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

\*\* P/ stand

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....

\* **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO EVERY MOTHER HERE !**

\* **May 16, 1998:** Brian Bailey and Leisa Weston invites everyone to attend their wedding at 2:30 PM here at the church. Reception following at Ernest Union Hall.

\* **May 30, 1998:** March for JESUS! Anyone interested in going please meet at the church that day at 8:15 AM. The Youth Group will be leaving at that time. We will be stopping at McDonald's for lunch before we return.

\* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birth dates to JoAnn or Joyce.

*CAROL. LIT - SEE JOYCE - / EA FAMILY*  
\* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

*HYMN SING - 2:00 NEXT SUN - DINNER AFTER CH.*  
\* The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

We are always in the forge,  
or on the anvil;  
By trials God is shaping  
us for higher things.

*PAUL ALOYI*

*RUBY*

*GENE*

*JANET - CAMERON*

*SUE*

*ANILISEN PRAHEM*



2B abl 2ovrcum is wat Xpianity teach  
 Ur circumstanc may seem imposibl  
 U may feel U only Xpian in entir crowd  
 But "Fear not," our Lord says, "I hav ovrcum th/world"  
 & Bcuz He has ovrcum th/world,so can we  
 R U wil 2 trus Him w/entir lif fr/nw on?  
 R U wil 2 trus Him fr/2day on?  
 Wil U trus Him this wk?  
 Wil U ansr His cal = To Overcome?

(Ilus Alif-Hafed-Russell Conwell=Acres of Diamonds)

Sol cum conclusin,lif w/out G meanless  
 vs 1=templ worship

(Ilus sit on Dav's knee & lern histry)  
 1 Sam 15:2-3;7-9;10-11;13-21;22-23

(Ilus Jn Wesley & if knu wud dy nex nite midnite)

10=luv of mony not answer

vss 18-20-sumatin his thots

(Ilus Mad Murry O'Hair & visit coleg campus)

*HOMEWORK - READ 6 THru 12*

# "Plan A: To Overcome"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

(Ilus Acres of Diamonds)

But tendency is 2lk Bgon & C gras greenr on othr sid of fenc  
 Sol exact lik this,altho own mos all welth of worl,felt strang  
 long he mis sumth along way

"Bgan serch 4 tru ansr 2lif & in so do put thots in writ as  
 t 2think all this thru

In much 1st 4chaps of buk spok of Vanity=or meanlesnes of lif  
 As he lk at lif had cum 2conclusin tim afr tim th/mean of lif,  
 th/real mean of mans existenc had 2includ G or it meanlesness  
 5:1=Sol think terms templ wors

individ syngogs wh/sprang up afr Jew dispers wer not in exist  
 worsh confin 2 Jeru & all Gud Jews cam 2 temple

Sol had bilt templ & knu it as plac 4tru worship  
 He knu hostry of Jews & may hav thot bak 2tim wen he had lern  
 histry

(Ilus of sit Fathr David's knee & tol of Saul)

1st Sam 15:2-3, 7-9, 10-11, 13-21, 22-23

Sam sez=Obed is bettr than sacrific & this wat Sol say chap 5,  
 vs 1

B obed 2 th/L rather than think evrth in worsh ris & fal on  
 propr sac is actul wat Sol say

tru worsh consis in do wat G wants,not wat we think is import  
 2 obey G is an act of worsh Bcuz it mean we bow 2 His wil, His  
 wishes not our own

Sol giv this advic as can C in read vss 2 thru 7

He sum up w/words=Rathr,fear God - vs 7B

Sol advocat complet surendr 2 G w/body,soul,sp

that is tru worsh Bcuz giv 2-G th/complet lif He has givnus

(Ilus & Jn Wesley & if he knu he wud dy at midnite)

This tru worsh,th/giv 2-G,th/complet self;evrth we R & evrth we  
 up 2 & includ ea part our livs

2nd pt Sol mak in lk at life circumstanc is that wh/involv powr  
 & mony

He lern fr/exper of lif ques 4mony bring evil w/it & th powr  
 2buy anyth includ peo,& this powr eventuly completly corrupt

th/individ

vs 10-pt out luv of mony is not ansr

Sol w/wisdm had cum 2 pt of undrst basic pt of life=vss 13-16

He say exac wat Js sed wen Bgin minstry=Serm Mt=Mt 6:19-24

Sol saw 1 las thing on this ocasin wen writ thez words & his

thots in sumatin record vss 18-20

Basic,simply=Sol say whethr persn rich/poor of no consequenc  
 both clas hav own sets probs/cares & wat is import=persn lern

tru lesn of lif is 2 Ovrcum

2ris abuv circums of lif & liv lif as G giv 2ea persn & in pro-  
 ces of liv,individ lern 2enjoy lif evn in mid cares wh lif  
 engendr

(Ilus Mad Murry O'Hair & visit coleg campus)

"Plan A: To Overcome"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

(Illustration of "Acres Of Diamonds")

Years ago a minister named Russell Conwell told of an ancient Persian, Ali Hafed who owned a very large farm that had orchards, grain fields, and gardens and was a wealthy contented man. One day a wise man from the East told the farmer ~~about~~ all about diamonds and how wealthy he would be if he owned a diamond mine. Ali Hafed went to bed that night a poor man -- poor because he was discontented. Craving to have a mine of diamonds he sold his farm to search for the rare stones. He traveled the world over, finally becoming so poor, broken and defeated, that he committed suicide.

One day the man who purchased Ali Hafed's farm led his camel into the garden to drink. As the camel put his nose into the brook, the man saw a flash of light from the sands of the stream. He pulled out the stone which reflected all the hues of the rainbow. The man had discovered the most magnificent mine of the world.

Had Ali Hafed stayed at home, ~~he~~ and dug in his own garden, instead of death in a strange land, he would have had, "Acres of Diamonds," as Russell Conwell entitled this story.

But the tendency is to look beyond and to see that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. Solomon was exactly like this. Although he owned ~~almost~~ almost all the wealth of the world, he felt the strange longing that he was missing something, or had missed something along the way. He began a search for the true answer to life and in so doing he put his thoughts in writing as he sought to think all of this through. In much of the first four chapters of his book he spoke of the "vanity" or meaninglessness of much of life. As he looked at life he had ~~come~~ come to the conclusion time after time that the meaning of life, the real essence of man's existence had to include God or it was meaningless.

Solomon writes at the beginning of this 5th chapter, "Guard your steps as you go to the House of God, and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil," verse 1.

Solomon was thinking in terms of the temple worship. The individual synagogues which sprang up after the Jews were dispersed throughout the different nations were not in existence at this time. Worship was confined to Jerusalem and all good Jews came to the temple. Solomon had built the temple and he knew it as the place for true worship.

He knew of the history of the Jews and he may well have been thinking back to the time in the life of Israel's first king how God had taken the kingdom from Saul because of his disobedience. We find recorded in the book of 1st Samuel the incident Solomon may have been relating to when he wrote these words of this verse. It is back there in the 15th chapter that we read of Samuel's instructions to Saul beginning at the 2nd verse, (read verses 2 & 3).

It is then that we learn of Saul's warfare with the Amalekites as we read, (read verses 7 through 9). But what Saul did was not pleasing to the Lord and we are told, (read verses 10 & 11). So Samuel goes to meet Saul and verse 12 relates the information that Samuel is given concerning Saul. And then is recorded the confrontation between Saul and Samuel in verses 13 through 21, (read these).

Saul tells of the disobedience which took place, but he places the blame on the people. "IT was THEM that did it," is what he is saying. But Samuel is unwilling to take any excuses for the disobedience because Saul was responsible for what took place. If he had been willing to do as God commanded, he would have ordered his men to follow God's orders to the letter. But he didn't and so it is that Samuel tells him, (read verses 22 & 23).



Samuel says, "Obedience is better than sacrifice." And this is what Solomon is saying in this 1st verse of the 5th chapter of Ecclesiastes, "Draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools."

Be obedient to the Lord rather than think that everything in worship rises and falls on the proper sacrifice is actually what Solomon is saying. True worship consists in doing what God wants, not what we think is important. To obey God is an act of worship because it means we bow to His will, His wishes, not our own. Solomon gives this advice as we can readily see reading verses 2 through 7, (read these). He sums it up with the words, "Rather, fear God," verse 7B0.

Solomon was advocating a complete surrender to God with body, soul and spirit. That is true worship because it gives to God the complete life which He has given us.

(Illustration of John Wesley and if he knew he would die at midnight)

A woman once asked John Wesley what he would do if he knew that his life were to end at midnight the next day. He answered, "Why madam, I would do just as I intend to do now. I would preach this evening at the church to which I am going. Then I would preach again at 5 tomorrow morning; and after that I would ride to the next town and preach in the afternoon and preach again in the evening. I would go to the home to which I have been invited, I would talk and pray with them until bedtime; then I would retire at 10:00 o'clock, commend myself to my Heavenly Father, lie down to sleep and awake in glory."

This is true worship. The giving to God, the complete self; everything that we are and everything that we have up to and including each part of our lives.

The second point Solomon makes in looking at the circumstances of life is that which involves power and money. He learned from his experiences in life that the quest for money brings with it the power to buy anything including people, and this gives power, which eventually completely corrupts the individual. But he points out that the love of money is not the answer, (read verse 10). Solomon with his wisdom had come to the point of understanding the basic point of life and he said, (read verses 13 through 16). He was saying exactly what Jesus told the world many years later. When Jesus was preaching at the beginning of His ministry in what has come to be known as the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke along these same lines in language that left no doubt as to what a person was to do in this life. In Matthew chapter 6, we read His very familiar words. (Read Matthew 6, 19 through 24, and explain.)

Solomon saw one last thing on the occasion when he was writing these words and his thoughts in summation are recorded in verses 18 through 20, (read these verses).

Basically and simply Solomon is saying that whether a person is rich or poor is of no consequence in the living of this life. Both classes have their own sets of problems and cares. What is important, is that a person learns the ~~the~~ true lesson of life and that is to "Overcome." To rise above the circumstances of life and to live life as God gives it to each person. And in the process of living, the individual learns to enjoy life even in the midst of the cares which life engenders.

(Illustration of Madelyn Murray O'Hair & visit to college campus)

To be able "To Overcome" is what Christianity teaches. Your circumstances may seem impossible many times; you may feel that you are the only believer in the entire crowd. But fear not our Lord says, "I have overcome the world." And because He has overcome the world, so can we. Are you willing to trust Him with your entire life from now on? Are you willing to trust Him from today on? This week? Will you answer His call, & "Overcome?"

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 8, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Wendy Norman and Kelly Mangel

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 1 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Gracious God, our Father, we know that the home is where the heart is, but too often we confess our desire to be elsewhere. We treat our homes as merely place to come to when we have no where else to go. We ask forgiveness for the times we have spread dissention at home instead of peace; for hatred instead of love; for misery instead of joy. Let us be more thankful for what we have and less envious of the things of our neighbors. Help us to build our homes upon that solid rock foundation which can withstand the storms of life, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 230 "His Name is Wonderful"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory by the Youth Orchestra

\*Doxology - page 382

Dedication of Memorial Vase and Music Folders

Anthem: "Be Thankful" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 6: 1-12

Sermon: "Plan A: Destiny"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 538 "A Christian Home"

\*Closing

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + +

\*Congregation Standing

+ + + + +

The Women's Mary Prugh Circle have placed the flowers on the altar in memory of deceased members.

Mrs. Melanie Merrison and daughter Stacey will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Helen Riemer, Phyllis Tait, Alma Dally and Shirley Thompson.

Attendance last Sunday was 126 with 10 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Mary Jane

Weisenstein.

Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital this week with Ken Draxinger.

Hospitalized: Ken Weitzel & Ellen Schildroth in BMH. - 047

MONDAY - VBS staff meeting at 7:00 P.M. Please be there!

Sunday School teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M.

We need those teachers and assistants there also.

May 9th Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Sherman will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Choir practice on Thursday at 6:00 for the Youth, 7:00 for the Chancel Choir and 8:00 for the special music.

Bible study is being held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 P.M. Sure would like to see you join us.

Butler Area Laymen are holding their next dinner on May 19 at St. Peter's U.C.C. in Zelienople at 6:30 P.M. This is "Ladies Night" so please get your tickets from Jake Harmon. Today is the reservation deadline.

The Ladies Spring Banquet will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:00 P.M. Please bring a tureen, table service, and plan to have a good evening. Entertainment will be a part of the evening as well as election of new Women's Fellowship officers. Meat, dessert and beverage will be provided.

The enclosed flier is for you to read and share this message that may be able to help someone.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.



SCRIP: ECC 6:1-12; SERMON: "PLAN A: DESTINY"

No 1st HEW ORC  
NEXT WEE K

(ILUS GIRLS PLAYING "WEDDING" & "FOR RICHER")

GIRL KNE WAT WANT'D & THER MANY LK THAT, BUT JUS AS MANY NO KNOW  
MANY PEO IGNORNT BOUT WAT BLIEV & WAT SHUD BLIEV

(ILUS MAN & BLIEF "CHRISTIANS BLIEV IN ASTROLOGY." - REAGAN)

Y 2C WAT MISTAKN BLIEFS SUM PEO HAV

SOL HAD CUM 2THIS PT HIS LIF

HE START OUT STRNG POLO G'S PLAN 4HIS LIF

HAD BCM WELTHY, ACQIR WIVS (1000 WIVS/MOTHR IN LAWS, 999 2MANY)

WAS TOLD BY GOD, FOREIGN WOMN WUD TURN HIM FR/GOD - THEY DIP

SOL IN OLD AGE NOW SERCH 4MEANING FOR HIS LIF

HAD MOR WELTH/MATERIAL GUDS THAN CUD EVR USE,

HAD ALL WISDM ONE MAN CUD EVR WANT,

YET HE DESPAIR OF LIF IN OLD AGE

SO WAT WER TH/ANSRS 2ALL THIS? WHER HE GO FR/HERE??

SERCH HAS BROT HIM ALWAYS BAK 2LK WAT G HAS DUN, & DUZ MANS LIF

SO HE WRITES .....

VSS 1-2=PROB SEVRL FACTRS HE LK AT HERE

G BLESSES/GIVS, ALSO TAKS AWAY; MAN MAY GET WELTH, DY & LV 2OTHR

MAY BIN THINK BOUT WAT SONS/OTHR MAY DO W/WELTH INHERIT

(ILUS HUSBAND/WIFE DISCUS AFLUENT FRNDS, & "RICH NOW, MONY LATR

WE R RICH W/WATEVR WE HAV & SHUD THANK G & ENJOY LIF GIVN

BUT SOL LK FURTHR AT LIF & QUEST FUTILTY OF LIF .....

VSS 3-6=TH/GIST OF THIS IS THAT SOL THINK TERMS OF B MOURND

AND IF MOURND, WUDB GIVN DECENT BURIAL & B REMEMBERED

NO BURIAL MENT COMPLET DISRESPEC/DISREGARD 4PERSN'S LIFE

2DY W/OUT MORNRS OR HONORS CONSIDR WORS THANB BORN DED, EVN IF

TH/PERSON HAD MANY CHILDEN & A FUL LIFE

(ILUS HEROD TH/GRT, MURDERER, & MADE SUR WUDB MOURND AT DETH)

SOL THEN ASKS QUESTION ..... VS 6= (READ)

TH ELDRLY MAN, STILLBORN BABY GO TO SHEOL - PLACE OF DEAD

TIME OF SOL BLIEF WAS BOTH RITUS/WICKD GO SAME PLACE & GOD

WUD/WILL DIREC FINAL RESOLUTIN THOZ SPIRITS

WZDETH/RESUR/ASCENSIN OF JS BLIEF CHNG THAT BOTH GO IN 2ETRTY BUT

THER SEPRATIN TWEEN RITUS/WICKD

BUT ANY EVENT, BOTH GO IN 2 G'S ETRNTY

VS 7=SOL LAMENTS HERE MAN MUS WORK 2SATISFY NEEDS, (HUNGR/DAILY

MONETARY NEEDS, ETC) BUT HIS DESIRES/APETITES R NEVR SATISFIED

THAT IS=HIS WANTS FOR MORE OF TH/MONETARY THINGS OF LIFE

SAYING=EYES BIGGR THAN STOMACH TRU WAY BAK THEN

VS 8=TH/WISE & EVN TH/POOR HAV NO ADVANTAG OVR TH/FOOL

INTRESTING 2NOTE FOOL=KE-S-EEL IN HER & S SOL USE PROV/ECC & MEAN

DULL/OBSTINAT, HATES KNOWLEDG, HAS NO ~~FLXKE~~ CAPACITY 2GET WISDM,

IS COMPLACENT, SELF-CONFID, ENJOYS DOING WRONG & DISPLAYING POLLY,

SHRUGS OFF REBUK, SPEECH IS PERVERS, & IS PRONE 2MAK MANY RASH PROM

TH/POOR KNO WAT HAV, & CAN BUY & SO KNO HOW WALK B4 OTHERS

IF POOR KNO HOW CONDUCT AFFAIRS, MANY AFLUENT DO NOT BCUZ HAV 2MUCH  
(EXAMPL CHILDEN AFLUENT FAMLYS, NO KNO HOW WORK, & WON'T WORK)

VS 9=SOL POINT OUT BOTH POOR/AFLUENT HAV SAME PROB

THAT IS, TH/DESIR 2HAV MOR & MOR WAT WORL HAS 2OFFR

HE SAY, BETTR 2LK & NOT TOUCH BCUZ WEN U NEVR SATISFYD, MUCH WAT

U GET PROVS 2B MEANINGLESS, ADD FRUSTRATIN OF LIF'S MEANING

SOL NOW CUMS 2PLAC WHERHE SEZ NATUR ~~EX~~ & ESENC OF EVRTH THAT

EXISTS, INCLUD PEOP WAS FORE-ORDAINED LONG AGO

LOOK HOW HE POINTS THIS OUT IN THE 10th VS ..... (READ THIS)

VS 10A=WATEVR EXISTS HAS ALREDY BIN NAMED,

AND WAT MAN IS HAS BEEN KNOWN,

BUT MAN CANNOT ..... VS 10B= "HIM" SHUD CAPITALIZED

BCUZ ~~IT~~ REFERS TO GOD, (SUM BIBLES HAV IT THAT WAY)

WHO CAN STAND AGIN GOD, HE IS IN CONTROL

(ILUS WETHR 4CAST KENTUCKY)

DESTINY OF MAN REST W/GOD

HE KNO ALL BOUT US & GOD CARES

2HAV EA ONE TO B HIS CHILD

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

VS 11-12

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE**  
WELCOMES YOU..  
May 17, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

\*\*HYMN-----What A Friend-----#466

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----Wonderful Word of Life-----# 29

*CLIFF & CATHY RICHEY & DANA ROSS*

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

SERMON: "Plan A: Destiny"

\*\*INVITATIONAL HYMN--Sweet Hour of Prayer--#439

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

\*\* Please stand

*PLAY PARTICIPANTS CATHY MORGAN'S HAD A MEET  
SUNDAY PRIMER - 3:30  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....  
C.H. DIRECTORIES  
VBS DE-REG.  
PICKUP, FILL OUT*

\* **May 17, 1998:** Hymn Sing! Please plan to attend. 2-4 PM  
Fellowship Dinner after Church Today.

\* **May 29, 1998:** Family Banquet! 6:30 PM.

\* **May 30, 1998:** March for JESUS! Anyone interested in going please meet at the church that day at 8:15 AM. The Youth Group will be leaving at that time. We will be stopping at McDonald's for lunch before we return.

\* **June 5 - 6, 1998:** Revival... Please plan to renew your faith in JESUS! Ed & Janet McDaniel. Friday 7:30 PM Saturday 7:00 PM.

\* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birth dates to JoAnn or Joyce.

\* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

\* The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

May 17-----Ron Ressler  
May 20-----Doris Stiffler  
May 23-----Ken Branran

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...**

May 1-----Lou & Norma Hunter

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

THERE IS NO BETTER EXERCISE  
FOR THE HEART  
THAN REACHING DOWN  
AND LIFTING SOMEONE UP.

*FAMILIES CAR ACCIDENT -FRI*

*PAUL*

*DALE*

*EMMA*

*BRUNN LELISA*

*BILL*

*UNSPOKEN -PEG (2)*

*LIZA*

*RICK*



Scripture: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12  
 (Ilus 6yr old play wed w/sistr-Tak 4 richer)  
 litl girl knu exac wat wantd & many peo lik her that respec  
 but ther jus as many do not kno wat want & jus as surprisly,  
 ther many,many peo hav no idea wat they actuly Bliev  
 (I's man, astrology & Xpianity)  
 Of Jrs this complet fals sinc Scrip warn us this occult & 4bidn  
 it easy 2C how mistakn sum peo canB bout wat othrs Bliev/stan4  
 Ea individ mus deal w/wat Blievs & wher he stan  
 Sol was in th's predicament:  
 had bin strong lnce in folo G's plan 4his lif  
 had Bcum welthy & in do so amas lrg volum wivs as wel  
 G tol thez foreign womn wud turn hart 2ther gods,but Sol tak  
 700 wivs,300 concubines=man say wat wors? 1M wivs?  
 anser=1M mothrs-in-law,mother-in-laws=watevr it 999 too many  
 Sinc Sol got off beatn trak he serch 4real anrs 2mystery lif  
 he had all material guds evr need & morhad all wisdm 1 man cud  
 want, & yet despair of lif in old age  
 wat was ansr 2all this? Wher did he go fr/here?  
 Sol had cum up w/varius anrs up 2this pt & so continu in train o  
 of thot 2spk of welth & riches - Vss 1-2  
 Sol say whil G may giv welth,possesins,honor,yet man wilnot hav  
 oportunt 2 enjoy them  
 in fac he say strangers,foreignrs wil hav benfit of it  
 strangrs/foreignrs=thoz who not relatives,outsidrs in othr words  
 thez peo wil mak use of material possesins man bin bles with  
 in acumulat in lifetime  
 in this chap Sol lk at lif fr/stanpt sum things wh/ma& lif seem  
 futil  
 He cum conclusin stilborn child betr off than man hav many childr  
 & liys lng lif,but unabl 2enjoy that lif & wat he has  
 he pres in words=Vss 7-9  
 Sol knu his bakgr & was acquaint w/unhappnes fr.persnl exper  
 knu 4instanc fathr Dav bin involv in rathr nasty bit of royl  
 intrigue  
 being rais in fathrs cort as yng princ,mothr,servs or both  
 wud hav convey 2him that his rol was 1 of usurpr of th/throne  
 Dav 4watevr reasn desidrd anothr mans wif & wen comit adultry  
 w/her,she Bcam preg & he contriv 2hav husban kil  
 then he marry her,but Nathan proph confr Dav & pronounc G's judg  
 on him  
 2 Sam 12:13-25 - Read thez vss  
 Sol knu this wud hav bin oldr bros,& may wel hav bin th one 2  
 suceed Dav on throne  
 But Sol had asum thron at request by mothr Bathsheba  
 he tuk kingdm 2 nu heights of welth & prosperity  
 But here in old age was sort lif out

2/  
 His final anr this pt stat in vss 10-12=(read thez)  
 Mans destny lies in hands of G & man canot control it  
 He asks=vs loB=who can disput w/him who is strngr than he is?  
 in othr words=who can stan agin God?  
 G in control no mattr wat man may do  
 th's not falistic nor a completly cynicl note  
 merly a fac Sol arriv at,& this a fac evry persn need cum  
 to  
 (Ilus waether 4cast in Kentucky)  
 Think about that! Alth a mistakn quot,th/truth eviden in it  
 Dur Js erthly minstry he in Jeru & taut folowrs bout things wud  
 cum in th/futur  
 Mark 13:32-37-Read  
 Js say=Watch,B on lukout,kno G in control regardles how dismal,  
 bleak lif may seem 2U  
 th Destiny of man rests w/God  
 He knows our desirs,our needs,He kno all bout us regardles of  
 who we R  
 He knows ea one of us persnly  
 & He cares 4 ~~Nix~~ each one 2B His child  
 (Ilus Warner Sallman & miraculous recovery from TB)  
 G is in control regardles of circumstances of lif  
 Sol cam 2this conclusin  
 but he wasnt privileg 2C complet fulfil G's luv thru Js Xp  
 in Js we can kno G's fulfil luv  
 Do U know that Ur so cal=Destiny is a part of G's plan?  
 As smal & insignif as any of us may seem,G knows each of us by  
 name  
 He cares for you  
 He luv's you  
 Acpt that luv 2day,rite now  
 Bild Ur lif & Ur hom on that foundatin wh/is Js Xp our Lord.

## "Plan A. Destiny"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

(Illustration of 6 year old playing wedding with her sister)

A man tells of going to a wedding with his two small daughters. When they came home, the girls started to play "wedding" and act out what they had seen. The older girl played the part of the minister. The little 6 year-old played the part of the bride. The man believed preacher asked, "Do you take this man for richer or poorer?" The 6 year-old answered, "For richer."

The little girl knew for a certainty just what she wanted. Many people are like her in that respect. But there are just as many others who do not know what they want. And just as surprisingly, there are many, many people who have no idea what they actually believe.

(Illustration of man's misconception of Christianity)

Just this past week shortly after the news media was having a field day with the ridiculous story circulating that President Reagan consulted astrology before making decisions, I was listening to a radio talk show. A man called in to add his thoughts to the conversation and he tried to make a case for the fact that the Reagans are Christians and since they are then it is only natural that they would believe in astrology. His argument was that the Wise men who came to the birth of Jesus were followers of astrology and that was why they came to worship Jesus. He said, "Since astrology is spoken of in the Bible in this way, all Christians believe in it."

Of course, this is completely false since Scripture tells us that seeking answers from something such as astrology is dealing in the occult and this is forbidden. It's easy to see how mistaken some people can be about what others believe or stand for. Each individual must deal with what he believes and where he stands. Solomon was in this predicament. He had once been strong in following God's plan for his life. But he had become very wealthy, and in amassing his fortune he had the opportunity to also amass a large volume of wives. God had told him that these foreign women would turn his heart to worship their idols, but Solomon proceeded in his own wisdom to take 700 wives and 300 concubines. (And incidentally, one man from our congregation reminded me that Solomon then had about 1000 Mothers-in law. Or is that 1000 mother-in-laws? Whatever, it's about 999 too many).

Since Solomon had gotten off the beaten track, he was searching for the real answers to the mystery of life. He had all of the material goods he ever needed and more; he had all the wisdom one man could ever want; and yet he despaired of life in his old age. What was the answers to all of this? Where did he go from here?

Solomon had come up with various answers up to this point and so he continues in his train of thought to speak of wealth and riches and he says, "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun and it is prevalent among men - a man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor so that his soul lacks nothing of all he desires, but God has not empowered him to eat from them, for a foreigner enjoys them. This is vanity and a severe affliction." vss 1-2.

Solomon says that while God may give man wealth, possessions and honor, yet man will not have the opportunity to enjoy them. In fact he says, strangers, or foreigners will in fact



have the use or benefit of it. By "strangers" or "foreigners" Solomon means those who are not relatives. Outsiders, in other words will make use of the material possessions that a man has been blessed with accumulating in his lifetime.

In this chapter, Solomon is looking at life from the standpoint of some things which seem to make life futile. He comes to the conclusion that stillborn child is better off than a man who has many children and lives a long life, but is unable to enjoy that life and what he has.

He expresses this unhappiness with the words, "All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the appetite is not satisfied. For what advantage does the poor man have, knowing how to walk before the living? What the ~~eyes~~ eyes see is better than what the soul desires. This too is futility and a striving after wind. verses 7-9.

Solomon knew of his background and he was acquainted with unhappiness from personal experience.

He knew for instance, that his father David had been involved in a rather nasty bit of royal intrigue. Being raised in his father's court as a young prince, his mother, or the servants would have conveyed to him that his role was one of a usurper of the throne.

David, for whatever reason desired another man's wife. And when he committed adultery with her and she became pregnant, he contrived to have her husband killed. Then he married her.

But Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin and pronounced God's judgement upon David. So it is that we read in the 2nd book of Samuel the 12th chapter, beginning at the 13th verse, (read and explain verses 13 through 25). Solomon knew that this would have been his older brother and may well have been the one to succeed David on the throne. But he had assumed the throne at the request by Bathsheba. He took the kingdom to new heights of wealth and prosperity. But here in his old age, he was sorting life out.

His final answer at this point is stated in verses 10 through 12, (read these). Man's Destiny lies in the hands of God and man cannot control it. He asks, "Who can dispute with him who is stronger than he is?" verse 10B.

In other words, "Who can stand against God?" God is in control no matter what man may do.

This is not a fatalistic nor a completely cynical note. It is merely a fact that Solomon has arrived at. This is a fact that every person needs to arrive at.

(Weather forecast in Kentucky)

A weather forecast in Kentucky omitted the word "Showers," and the prediction stated, "There is less than a 5 per cent chance of tonight and tomorrow."

Think about that! Although it was a mistaken quote, the truth of life is evident in it.

During Jesus' earthly ministry he was in Jerusalem and He taught His followers about things that ~~were~~ were to come in the future. In Mark chapter 13 we find recorded those words.

Reading from the 32nd verse, Jesus said, (read verses 32 through 37).

He is saying, "Watch." "Be on the lookout; know that God is in control regardless of how dismal or bleak life may seem to you." The Destiny of man rests with God. He knows our desires, He knows our needs, He knows all about us regardless of who we are. And God cares to have each one be His child.

(Illustration of Warner Sallman & miraculous recovery from Tuberculosis)

In 1917 a young artist was told by his doctor, "You have tuberculosis of the lymph glands. Without surgery I believe you have about three months to live." That young man left the doctor's office in a daze. He was concerned about the young singer who had recently become his bride, and the for the baby soon to be born. When he walked into their house ~~his~~ and told his wife the sad news, she said, "We will pray and thank God for the three months. We will ask Him to use us to the limit and if He will mercifully give us more time, we shall be grateful for it." And so they knelt together and prayed. A wonderful healing took place and the young man never needed the surgery. For many years he remained in good health and lived to paint what has probably become the best known picture of Jesus Christ the world has ever known. His name was Warner Sallman, and he painted what is called, "Sallman's Head of Christ."

God is in control regardless of the circumstances of life. Solomon came to this conclusion, but he wasn't privileged to see the complete fulfillment of God's love through Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we can know God's fulfilling love. Do you know that your so called "Destiny" is a part of God's plan. As small and insignificant as anyone of us may seem, God knows each of us by name. He cares for you. He loves you. Accept that love today, right now! Build your life and your home on that foundation which is Jesus Christ our Lord.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 15, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolyte: Wendy Norman

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests

\*Proclamation Hymn No. 322 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Eternal Father, we want you to love us; but we have not yet learned how to love each other, even those who are as close to us as our own families. We are quick to see another's faults, but we are insensitive to their feelings. We hear others speak, but we do not listen to the deeper meanings which underline their words. We pass by those who carry heavy burdens of worry we could share, and we pay no attention. We are deaf and blind, careless and selfish. Forgive us Father, for our unnumbered sins; and teach us to love others in the true spirit of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 62 "Sun of My Soul"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Lord, I Sing A Song Of Joy"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12: 1-8

Sermon: "Plan A: Coping"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 606 "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + +

\*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The Campbell Family have placed the beautiful flowers on the altar in memory of Harvey Campbell.

Jeanne Snyder will greet our members and friends at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be done by members of the Youth Group. Attendance last Sunday was 169 with 31 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and Megan Hewis.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Charlie Penar in BMH

SUNDAY - 5:30 Junior Youth group meets

7:00 Youth Group meets

Bible Study in the Undercroft is cancelled because of the movie.

WEDNESDAY - Change in the date of practice for the choirs. Youth at 6, Chancel Choir at 7, Cantata at 8.

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIE tonight at 7:00 P.M. the Billy Graham movie "Cry From the Mountain" will be shown in the Sanctuary. We hope that you will come and bring along a friend or two. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken for the rental of the movie.

Funeral Service for Ken Weitzel will be held at 2:00 P.M. today from Young's Funeral Home. - SYMPATHY TO FAMILY

CRAFT HELPERS are needed for Vacation Bible School. If you would like to help, please see LuAnn Janicki our VBS director or Craft chairman Dick Mangel. Also pre-registration for VBS will be held May 22nd and June 5th before and after the church service.

The new Daily Bread booklets are now in the Narthex. Please take one and use this in your daily routine. & BOOK RACK  
Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE**

June 7, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

\*\*HYMN-----It Is No Secret-----#581

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----He Touched Me-----#628

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

SERMON: "Plan A: Coping"

\*\*INVITATIONAL HYMN----Rescue The Perishing----#661

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

\*\* Please stand

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....**

- \* **June 14, 1998:** Youth Group Meeting! 6 - 8 PM  
Basement of church.
- \* **June 14, 1998:** Communion Services - Worship Service.
- \* **June 27, 1998:** Strawberry Festival - Anyone with an Ice Cream Freezer please see Joann or Mable.
- \* Pre-registration forms for Vacation Bible School goes to JoAnn or Joyce.
- \* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

June 8-----Carol Bailey  
June 11-----Bill Morgan  
June 13-----Joe Abel

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...**

June 7-----Ernest & Priscilla Hill  
June 9-----Raymond & Cindy Fisher  
June 11-----Gene & Sis Hayes

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

DON'T LET GOD TAKE THE  
BACK SEAT OR SECOND  
BEST THIS SUMMER!

BRAD  
LANCE & FAMILY  
SUE - OPERATION  
GENE -  
BERNARD  
LA BAKER FAMILY  
V.B.S.  
UNSPOTTED SIS  
THERESA'S



VS 2=YOUTH AGE OF DAWN LITE, OLD AGE  
 TWILITE GLOOM-SUN/RISE, SET-MOON AGE  
 VS 3A=HANDS/ARMS WEAKN-PROTEC LIK GARD  
 OF PALAC, SHAK OLD AGE  
 VS 3B=LEGS/KNEES BENT=OSTEOPOSIS, MEN  
 SHRINK, BOWD LEGS  
 VS 3C=GRINDERS=TEETH, NO DENTIST THEN &  
 LOSE TEETH, NO CHEW  
 VS 3D=EYES BGIN LOSE SITE-CATARACTS  
 VS 4A=MOUTH DISTORT BCUZ NO TEETH  
 VS 4B=LITL NOIS FR/CHEW BCUZ SOFT FOOD  
 VS 4C=LITL NOIS WAKN LITE/ELDRLY SLEEP  
 VS 4D=LOSS OF HEAR, QUALTY MUSIC GONE  
 VS 5A=FEAR OF FALL-(CONWAY STEPS)  
 VS 5B=ALMOD TREE WHIT BLOSON-HAIR ELDR  
 VS 5C=INEFFECTIV BCUZ VITALTY GON, SLOW  
 GAIT

VS 5D=MAN GOES 2ETRNL HOME & MOURND  
 VS 6A=SPARK OF LIF SNAPS LIK SILVR CORD HOLD LAMP UP  
 VS 6B=GOLDN BOWL-BRAIN DETERIORAT  
 VS 6C=FAILING HART, RESERVOIR OF BLUD FLO WEN HART STOPS  
 VS 6D=CIRCULATORY SYSTM BRK DWN - VEINS ARTERYS  
 THUS SOL A<sup>W</sup> CAT ANYONE SHUD CUM 2TH/L B4 2MANY YRS HAV PASS &  
 LIF ABL 2B ) FULLY & COMPLETELY  
 HE OLD MAN & TEL OF PROBS & SETRAKS OF OLD AGE  
 (BACK TO PAGE ONE)

(Ilus girl & grandmother 4gottn by God)  
 analogy 2decaying/unprotected house:  
 vs 2=failing of body membris  
 vs 3A=hands & arms weakned  
 vs 3B=legs & knees totter  
 vs 3C=teeth lose abilty 2chew-Bcuz they R few  
 vs 3D=eyes Bgin 2lose site  
 vs 4A= mouth is distortd Bcuz of lak of teeth  
 vs 4B=littl noise, chew soft fud, baby fud  
 vs 4C=least amt nois awakn-Ken Weitzel in hosp  
 vs 4D=qualitys music elud him  
 vs 5A=fear of hts & stumbling  
 vs 5B=white hair, old age  
 vs 5C=slow gait of eldrly  
 vs 5D=vitality is gone  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 vs 5E=man go etrnl home litrally  
 vs 6A=spinal cord disintrgate  
 vs 6B brain deteriorat  
 vs 6C=fail hart, blud flo wen burst  
 vs 6D=circulatory system brak dwn  
 (Ilus man/woman 50yrs=I'm tird of U 2)  
 (Ilus fathr & acpt Xp, dottr hav star in crown)

SCRIP: ECC 12:1-8; SERMON: "PLAN A: COPING"

(ILUS LITTL GIRL & AGED GRANDMA AFTR FUBERL OF OTHR GRANDMA)

K SOL MAY WEL HAV THOT G 4GOTTN HIM LATTR YRS  
 AFTR SERIUS REFLEC CAM CONCL IT HE<sup>W</sup> WHO HAD 4GOTTN GOD  
 IN BUK "ECC" SOL BGAN SERCH 2FIND ANSR 2LIF  
 HI<sup>W</sup> JRCH 4MEAN/PURPOS GIV CONCLUSIN LIF VANITY/MEANINGLES  
 1 DISCOVER MANY THING MEN STRIV<sup>W</sup> FITE OVR MEAN NUTH WEN LIF  
 CUM 2 CLOSE  
 CHAP 12 IS SUMATIN ALL HAD WRITTN IN OTHR 11 CHAPS

VS 1<sup>W</sup> THIS FIRST PART OF THIS SUMMATIN  
 SOL BGIN CHAP W/ADVIC 2YNG THIS SIMLAR CHAP 11:9 - (READ)  
 (ILUS MAN MIS FERRYBOAT BCUZ "NO START ON TIME")  
 (ILUS STATISTICS OF YOUTH & SALAVATION)  
 XPIAN BUSNES SIGN: SCHOOL SHOOTINGS: WHER WIL UR TEENAGR B ON  
 SUNDAY MORNING?

EXAMPLE: T-BALL, LITTL LEAG, SOCCOR, BAKK BAL, ETC SUNDAY PRACTIC

VS 1A=A PATERN WH/SHUD START WEN YNG  
 REMEMBER=WORD W/SPECIL MEANING, A CAL 2DECISIV ACTIN  
 1 SAMUEL 1:19 =EXPL EXAMPL OF GOD "REMEMBERING" HANNAH & PROMISE  
 WAS NOT, "OH YES, HANNAH I COMPLETELY 4GOT U," INSTED IT WAS GOD  
 TAKING DECISIV ACTIN & MAK POSIB SHE GET PREG & HAV SON ASKD FOR  
 SOL SAY YNG PEO SHUD TAK DECISIV ACTIN 2WARD GOD  
 SEVRAL REASNS 4THIS: G CREATR OF ALL & G IS THER CREATR  
 TIME HAS WAY SLIP AWAY & MAY CUM TIME WEN CANOT TURN TO CREATR  
 SOL CUD SAY THIS BCUZ YRS SLIPBY HIM & FND SELF IN BATTL TO  
 UNDRST WAT 2DO W/LIF SINC HAD TURNED FR/GOD  
 THEN SOL PTS OUT GRAPHIC WAY LIF GOES ON & OLD AGE HAS WAY DREEP  
 UP ON INDIVIDUAL

ANALOGY THAT OF DECAY/UNPROTECTD HOUS = PAGE - 2  
 (BREAKDOWN OF VSS 2-6)

(ILUS REMARKS HUSBAND MAKES ON 50th WEDING ANIVERARY)  
 SI<sup>W</sup> SAYS CUM 2TH/L WHIL U STIL HAV ALL UR FACULTYS  
 VS 7=THIS SUMATIN - LIV CERTIN YRS, AGE IF LUCKY, THEN DIE  
 VS 8=SOL SAYS ALL OF THIS HAS NO MEANING  
 TH/REAL PT HERE IS THAT SPIRIT GO BAK 2GOD & HIS DEDUCTIN IS  
 A PERSON MUS GET RT W/GOD B4 IT TOO LATE  
 (ILUS LITTL GIRL, LUKEMIA, LEAD FATHER 2 CHRIST, GET STAR IN CROWN)  
 JS SED "LITTL CHILD SHAL LEAD THEM" - SIMPL FAITH OF CHILD  
 CHILDREN NOT SOPHISTICATD LIK ADULTS, JUS OPEN HARTS & LET JS  
 SPEAK TO THEM

SOL NO KNO BOUT JS AS ULTIMATE FUFLIFL OF GOD'S PLAN,  
 BUT DID KNOTRU RELATSHIP W/GODONLY POSIBL WEN PERSON CUM 2GOD  
 AND TH/YNGR TH/BETTR TO HAV THAT RELATSHIP  
 HE SEEM KNO EA PASS YR MAK MOR DIFFICULT 2CUM 2TH/LORD  
 HE HAD HARIN HIS HART 2GOD'S INSTRUCTINS & KNU FIRST HAND BOUT  
 ONLY U KNO 4CERT IF HAV ACPT XP AS SAVIOR IF UNSUR, 2DAY TH/TIME  
 REMEMBER=VS 7 - NOW IS TH/DAY OF SALVATIN, REDEDICATIN

"Plan A: Coping"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8  
 (Ilus littl girl & agd granma aftr funrl of othr granma)  
 K Sol may wel hav thot G 4gotn him in lattr yrs, but aftr periud  
 serius reflectin cam concl it he who 4got G  
 had he liv all lif seek 2liv 4-G as 1st star out, His lif wud  
 n hav takn turn wh/did  
 In buk entitle=Ecc, Sol Bgan serch 2fin ansrs 2lif  
 He serch 4mean & purp & aftr lk many thing of lif, conclud much of  
 lif was Vanity as he cal it, or meanlesnes  
 he discover many thing man striv 4, fite ovr, mean nuth wen lif is  
 sum 2clos  
 So in chap 12 now cum 2-1st part of sumatin of all had writn  
 & sed in othr 11 chaps  
 vs 1=Bgin chap w/bit of advic  
 this advic is 2yng-had simlar thot chap 11:9=Read  
 wat say here is yth tim 2enjoy lif 2 its fulest  
 But in no way was Sol advocat yng peo shud do anyth desir 2mak  
 them happy  
 Insted, he tel 2do things rt sinc G wil stan in judg of thoz  
 thing wh/dun wh/R imoral, dishones, or unethicl  
 So reminds yth=vs 1A  
 it a patrn wh/shud star wen yng  
 But word=Rembr is not jus recal 2mind certin sumth, it a cal 2  
 decisiv actin  
 Exmpl=1 Sam chap 1=Expl Hanah & want chldrn, promis dedicat son  
 vs 19=G no say=Ch yes Han, I completly 4got bout U  
 G remem by decisiv actin & mak posib 4her 2Bcum preg & hav son  
 she ask 4 & that was Samuel  
 Sol is say yng peo shud tak decisiv actin 2ward G  
 He say this 4sevr1 reasns:  
 Ht out G is creatr of all  
 At G is ther creatr, & that tim has way slip by & ther may cum  
 tim wen 2late 2turn 2Creatr  
 Sol can say this w/complet certnty Bcuz yrs hav slip him by & he  
 fnd self in batl 2undrst wat 2do w/lif sinc turn way fr/G  
 Folow vss pt out graphic way how lif go on & on & how age has way  
 of creep up on individ  
 Th/analgy use is that of decay & unprotec hous  
 vs 2=fail of body membrs  
 vs 3A=hands & arms weakn  
 vs 3B=legs R bent & knees totr  
 vs 3C=teeth los abilty 2chew, Bcuz they few  
 vs 3D=eyes Bgin los site  
 vs 4A=mouth distor Bcuz lak of teeth  
 vs 4B=littl nois fr/chew Bcuz eat soft fud  
 vs 4C=leas nois awakn eldrlly sleep=Exmpl Ken Weitzel in hosp  
 vs 4D=qualitys of music eldu him  
 vs 5A=fear of hts & stumbl  
 vs 5B=white hair of old age

vs 5C=slo gait of eldrlly  
 vs 5D=inefectiv, vitality gon  
 vs 5E=man go 2etrnl home litrlly vs 2B undrstud  
 vs 6A=Spinal cord  
 vs 6B=brain deteriorat  
 vs 6C=failing hart, reservoir of blud flo wen hart stop  
 vs 6D=circulatory systm brk dwn-veins/artrys  
 Thus Sol advocat anyl cum 2 th/Lord shud cum B4 2late, B4 2many  
 yrs pas & lif abl 2B liv fuly & completly  
 He was old man tel of probs & setbaks of old age  
 (Ilus man/woman celbrat 50th aniv=& wif hard hear)  
 Sol had cum 2 Lord in ythful yrs, B4 was 2late, & say mus do this  
 so can Cope w/lifs trials & probs  
 He then windup this part sumatin by say=Vss 7-8=Read  
 Sol expl evrth wcreep up on persn includ old age if reach it,  
 & then cum tim 2dy  
 Body is bury, but Sp wh/ is th/persn go bak 2-G who made it  
 This is th/RUACH-Breth of G  
 Exmpl this=Js on cros=F in 2 Thy hand I comend My Spirit  
 Sols deductin=Cum 2 th/Lord B4 it 2late  
 (Ilus fathr acpt Xp so daught'r cud hav star in crown)  
 Th/simpl faith of littl chil, but Js taut & littl child shal  
 lead them  
 It take simpl uncomplicat faith of child 2B adult enuf 2cum 2  
 th/Lord  
 Yng childrn arnt hungup on th/sophisticat things adults R  
 They dont try 2think things thru w/lot of =Wat Ifs?  
 They opn harts & let Js spk 2them  
 This wat Sol writ evn tho didnt kno bout Js at this pt  
 He no kno G's complet fulfil thru Js as ultimat plan 4mank  
 But he did kno relatship w/G only posib wen persn redy 4it, &  
 by tim is in yth  
 His wisdm he knu ea pas yr made soul mor resistant 2things o  
 After all, he had hardn hart 2-G's instructins, so he knu 1st hand  
 Js exten invitatin 2acpt Him as Savior  
 As U think bout that, only U can kno 4certin whethr U hav dun  
 this or not  
 If U havnt, perhaps G spk 2U 2day 2mak that decision  
 He mayB spk 2U 2rededicat Ur lif  
 if that mesag cum 2U, regardless Ur age, anser it  
 Wil U anser Him 2day?  
 Reembrth/Creatr not only in days of Ur yth, but at watevr age U  
 are  
 Th/word Remembr means=Decisiv actin-Wil U tak it?  
 Time passes & 1 day, we kno not wen=Vs 7-READ



"Plan A: Coping"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

(Illustration of little girl and aged grandma after funeral of other grandma)

A five-year-old girl was riding in a car with her grandmother following the funeral of her other grandmother. "Where did Grandma go?" she asked. "We believe she went to be with God," the grandmother replied.

"How old was she?" "She was 80 years-old."

"How old are you?" "83." The little girl thought about this for a moment and then said, "I hope God hasn't forgotten you."

King Solomon may well have thought that God had forgotten him in his latter years. But after a period of serious reflection he came to the conclusion that it was he who has forgotten God. Had he lived all of his life seeking to live for God as he first started out, his life would not have taken the twist which it did.

In his book entitled, "Ecclesiastes" Solomon began a search to find the answers to life. He searched for meaning and purpose and after looking at many things of life he had concluded that much of life was "vanity" as he called it, or meaningless. He discovered that many of the things men strive for, and fight over, mean nothing when life is coming to a close. So it is in this 12th chapter that he now comes to the first part of his summation of all that he had written and said in the other 11 chapters.

Solomon begins this 12th chapter with a bit of advice, and he says, (Read verse 1).

His advice is to the young. He had a similar thought in the 11th chapter in the 9th verse, (read this verse). What he is saying here is that youth is a time to enjoy life to its fullest. In no way is Solomon advocating that young people should do anything they desire to make them happy. Instead, he is telling them to do the things that are right since God will stand in judgement of those things which are done, which are immoral, dishonest, or unethical.

So he reminds young people, "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth." It is a pattern which should start while young. But the word "remember" is not just to recall to mind a certain something, it is a call to decisive action. An example of the use of this word is found in 1 Samuel chapter 1. Hannah was unable to have children and she asked the Lord to give her a son which she would dedicate to God. In the 19th verse of chapter 1, we read, (Read this verse). How did God remember her? He wasn't saying, "Oh yes, Hannah, I completely forgot about you." God remembered her by taking decisive action and making it possible for her to become pregnant and have the son Samuel which she had asked of God. Solomon is saying that the young people should take this decisive action ~~in~~ toward God. He is saying this for several reasons. He is pointing out that God is the creator of all; that God is their creator; and that time has a way of slipping by and there may come a time when it is too late to turn to the Creator. Solomon can say this with complete certainty because the years have slipped him by and he found himself in a battle to understand what to do with his life since he had turned away from God.

The following verses point out in a graphic way how life goes on and how age has a way of creeping up on an individual. The analogy he uses is that of a decaying and unprotected house.

Verse 2, is the failing of the bodily members.

Verse 3, "the watchmen of the house tremble," the hands and arms are weakened.

Verse 4, 3B, mighty men stoop - legs are bent and knees totter



Verse 3C, Grinding ones stand idle - teeth lose ability to chew, because they are few.

Verse 3D, Those who look through windows grow dim - the eyes begin to lose their sight.

Verse 4A, doors are shut - Mouth is distorted because of lack of teeth

Verse 4B, sound of the grinding is low - little noise chewing baby food, soft food.

Verse 4C, one will arise at the sound of a bird - the least amount of noise will awaken an elderly sleeper - Ken Weitzel and visit on Wednesday, telling of woman screaming and awakening him and he couldn't get back to sleep.

Verse 4D, and all the daughters of song - the qualities of music are eluding him

Verse 5A, men are afraid of the high place & terror on road - Fear of heights and stumbling.

Verse 5B, Almond tree blossoms - White blossoms, white hair, of old age

Verse 5C, grasshopper - slow gait of elderly

Verse 5D, caperberry is ineffective - vitality is gone

Verse 5E, man goes to his eternal home - literally.

Verse 6A, silver cord - spinal cord

Verse 6B, golden bowl - brain deteriorates.

Verse 6C, pitcher by well - the failing heart, well-reservoir of blood, flows when heart stops

Verse 6D, wheel at cistern - circulatory system breaks down - veins, arteries

Thus Solomon is advocating that anyone should come to the Lord before too many years have passed and life is able to lived fully and completely. He was an old man telling of the problems and setbacks of old age.

(Illustration of man and wife celebrating 50th wedding anniversary)

A man and woman were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The woman was very hard of hearing. During the celebration the husband got up to say a few words about their long married life. He said to her, "After 50 years, I have found you to be tried and true."

Not hearing what he said, his wife asked, "What did you say?"

Speaking very loudly he shouted, "After 50 years of marriage I have found you to be tried and true."

To which his wife answered, "Humph, after 50 years of marriage, I'm tired of you too."

Solomon says to come to the Lord in the youthful years of life before it is too late.

Then Solomon winds up this portion of Scripture by saying simply, "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. "Vanity of vanities," says the preacher, "all is vanity."

Solomon explains that old age creeps up on a person, everything seems to become decayed and decaying. And at last, the body dies and is buried, but the spirit which was the individual goes back to God who made it. And all of this he points out gives life the appearance of meaninglessness. But the real point he makes is that the spirit goes back to God. His deduction is that a person must come to the Lord before it is too late.

(Illustration of Father accepting Christ, so his daughter would have a star in her crown)

The simple faith of a little child. But Jesus taught that "a little child shall lead them."

It takes the simple uncomplicated faith of a child to be adult enough to come to the Lord.

Young children aren't hung up on the sophisticated things that adults have. They don't try to think through a lot of "What ifs?" They open their hearts and let Jesus speak to them. This is what Solomon was writing. He didn't know about Jesus as the fulfillment of God's ultimate plan. But he did know that a true relationship with God was only possible when the person seeking that relationship did it in the flower of youth. In his wisdom, he knew that each



passing year made the soul that much more resistant to the things of God. After all, he had hardened his heart to God's instructions, so he knew from first-hand experience. Jesus extends the invitation to accept Him as Savior. As you think about that, only you can know for certain whether you have done this or not. If you haven't, perhaps God is speaking to you today to make that commitment. He may be speaking to you to rededicate your life. And if that message is coming to you, regardless of your age, answer it. Accept Christ today and don't let another day pass before you make your life right with Him. Will you answer Him today? Remember, the Creator not only in the days of your youth, but at whatever age you are. Time passes and one day, we know not when, "The dust will return to the ~~ground~~ earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 22, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Nicole Merrison

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 240 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Loving Father, who gives completely of His love to us, forgive our selfishness. We aren't intentionally indifferent to others. It's just that we are so caught up in our own lives, our jobs, our families, we look at the world around us from down deep in our own little worlds. We do care, but we don't take the time or the trouble to respond in love to the needs around us. Strengthen us to assume the burden of caring. Enrich our lives so we can know the joy of others. Forgive us our short-sightedness so we can try again. In Jesus' name. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 466 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "The Savior Is Waiting"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12: 9-14

Sermon: "Plan B Becomes Plan A"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 220 "I've Found a Friend,  
O Such a Friend"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benedict

\*Postlude

+ + + + +

\*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Campbell have placed the flowers on the altar in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. James Christy. Mrs. Millie Wachsmuth will greet our members and friends at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, Dick Dally, George Pflugh and Don Kingsley.

Attendance last Sunday was 111 with 5 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Deb Melton.

Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the hospital this week.

Sunday - Junior Youth will meet at 5:30 P.M.

Youth Group meets at 7:00 P.M.

Bible Study at 7:00 P.M.

> Tuesday - 7:00 P.M. choir practice for Men only.

> VBS pre-registration begins today. Please take a moment before or after the service and register your child or children for Vacation Bible School. This will also be held again on June 5th. If you know of anyone from ages 2 through adult that you would like to bring, register them also. Vacation Bible School is June 20-24th from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, see LuAnn Janicki.

> We will be honoring the veterans of this congregation next Sunday. This will be a special service for our veterans and we hope you will make every effort to attend. We have assisting in the service, Cadets from the JROTC corp at the High School, and a Ceremonial Squad from the Moniteau District. Immediately following the service we will have a luncheon in the hall. This is open to everyone attending. The Hospitality Committee is hosting this and they need some help. They need cakes and jello salads, so if you can bring one in, please let Helen Riemer know. Also, those veterans who sent in the information sheet, we hope you will be here!!!

MONDAY EVENING - 7:00 P.M. Property Committee meeting!!!

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.



**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE**

June 14, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

**\*\*HYMN-----**It's The Family of God-----#543

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

**\*\*DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----I Could Never Out Love the Lord-----#452

SCRIPTURE:      Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

SERMON:      "Plan B Becomes Plan A"

*Lord's Supper*

**\*\*INVITATIONAL HYMN-----**Amazing Grace-----#107

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

**\*\* Please stand**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....**

*COMMUNITY INVITE  
ALL*

*(PART BOARD MEETING AFTER)*

- \* **June 14, 1998:** Youth Group Meeting! 6 - 8 PM  
Basement of church.
- \* **June 14, 1998:** Communion Services - Worship Service.
- \* **June 27, 1998:** Strawberry Festival - Anyone with an Ice Cream Freezer please see Joann or Mable.
- \* Pre-registration forms for Vacation Bible School goes to JoAnn or Joyce.
- \* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.
- \* The **YOUTH GROUP** would like to thank those who sponsored them by buying Auntie Ann Coupons.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

June 17-----Mona Branan  
June 19-----Mary Allshouse

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...**

June 19-----Keith & Joanne Fairman

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

"Anxiety in a man's heart  
weighs him down,  
but a good word makes  
him glad"

*WEATHER*

*LADY AUTO WRECK  
(SEVERAL CONVICTIONS)*

*BOB - ACCIDENT  
JUDY - HYPERTIA*

*BERNARD*

*UNEMPLOYED - HELEN / JEAN*

*ED -*

*ELDERLY*

*ISABEL - TERMINAL*

*VBS - TEACHER MUSIC*

Proverbs 12:25

SCRIP: ECC 12:9-14; SERMON: "PLAN B BECOMES PLAN A"

(ILUS JANITR TALK BOUT FURNAC, OVRHERD BY PARISHNER, THOT PASTR)  
THER MISCONCEPTS ALL KINDS MANY TIMES THINGS NO TURN OUT RT  
(ILUS SEN MUSKIE, BANQUET, 2WOMEN & ADVICE HE FOLLOW)

I'M SUR MOS US HAV TRYD2DO SUMTH W/GUD INTENTS & FND NO WORKOUT  
AS ANTICIPATD

K JL HAD SERCH 4REAL MEAN OF LIF AS PONDR LIF IN OLD AGE  
KNU VERY SOON WUD PASS ON & DESIR 2KNO WAT CUD DO 2GET BAK ON  
TRAK AGIN

SEEMD AS THO LIF HAD PAS HIM BY QUITE FEW THEZ LATTR YRS  
HE UPSET, DISTURB BY THIS & 2HELP IN SERCH PUR THOTS IN WRITING  
LOGICLY/RATINALLY PUT 4TH ARGUMENT, PIEC BY PIEC  
HE TUK EXPERIENS OF LIF, LK AT POSSESSINS, THEN DETRMIN WAT HIS  
THINKING & ATTITUD WAS 2WARD LIF & FR/ALL THIS WROT ECCLESIASTES

MUCH WAT HE SAW HE CAL "VANITY" OR MEANINGLESSNESS  
THIS LAS CHAP IS 2PT SUMATIN OF ALL HIS LIF  
WE LKD LAS WK 1st PART & CONSIST OF AGIN PROCES & HOW YNG PEO  
SHUD CUM 2O GOD IN VIGOR OF LIF

NOW THIS SECTION HE BGIN BY SAY - READ VERSE 9  
THER THOZ LK THEZ WORDS & SAY SOL BOAST OR BRAG WAT HAD DUN  
BUT IF LK CLOSLY CAN DISCOUNT THAT THINK BOUT TH/OLD MAN  
FIRST: NO SAY, "I AM WISE MAN" HE SAY BCUZ TH/PREACHR-(HIMSELF)

WISE, HE STIL TAUT WISDOM 2TH/PEOPL  
THAT NO BOAST IT SIMPLY RELAT WAT GUD LDRS SHUD DO, PASS KNOWLE  
TO TH/PEOPL

VS 10=SOL GAV OVR 3M PROVERBS SCRIP TEL US

VS 10=THIS ALSO SHO GUD LDRSHIP - SEEK IMPART TRUTH/KNOWLEDG

VS 11=SOL NOW GIVS ILUS WAT WISDM/KNOWLEDG DUZ

GOAD/NAILS BOTH TOOLS OF SHEPHERDS

GOAD=WOODN POLE USED 2FOK RELUCTANT ANIMALS 2MOVE, CHNG DIRECTIN  
NAILS WER USED 2KEEP SHEEP TIED SO NO WANDR, GET HURT/LOST/KILL'D  
M RE OF ASSEMBLIES=SCHOLARS, THOZ WHO HAV STUDY, BCUM WISE &

THUS DISPENS WISDM/KNOWLEDG, THEY LK THEZ 2TOOLS  
THIS DISPENSATION OF WISDM/KNOWLEDG GIVN BY ONLY ONE SHEP  
THAT SHEPHERD IS GOOD HIMSELF, THER IS ONLY ONE GOD

(JS SPKE OF SELF AS GUD SHEPHERD, GIV WISDM/KNOWLEDG FR/GOD)

VS 12=THIS IS A WARNING

MANY, MANY BUKS WER WRIT B4 SOL, & MANY, MANY MORWUDS WRITTN  
IT INCUMBANT UPON THOZ WHO SEEK WISDM/KNOWLEDG/DIRECTIN 4LIF,  
CHEK OUT WAT READ/STUDIED

TENDENCY THEN & NOW, CONSULT SO CALL "AUTHORTYS" IN BUKS, & FOLLOW  
THER WISDM, BUT OPTN DUN BY EXCLUD WAT GOD HAV 2SAY ON MATTR  
ANYTH WRITTN, PUT 4th AS SCHOLARSHIP MUSS EXAMIN IN LITE OF  
SCRIPTUR

MUS ALWAYS ASK="HOW DUZ THIS SQUAR W/GOD'S WORD?"

IF FIND IT OPOS WAT GOD SEZ, THROW IT OUT

VS 13A=SOL NOW BGIN RINAL SUMATIN WH/TWO PARTS

VS 13B= "FEAR GOD"

VS 13B= "FEAR GOD" - THIS 1ST STEP PERSON CAN TAKE

~~PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN/REWRITTEN/REWRITTEN/REWRITTEN~~

SOL USE THIS WORD 16 TIMES BUK PROV, & 5TIMES ECCLESIASTES  
ROOT WORD IS "Y-A-W-R-A-Y-" & MEANS 2B HAD IN REVERENCE, 2REVERE  
IF GOD IS HELD IN REV, THAT PERSN IS AT BGIN OF SERCH 4REAL

PLAN OF LIF

GOD DUNZNT IMPART ANYTH HARMFUL/FALS 2ANY WHO SEEK HIM

1. WE REVERENC GOD, WE BGIN 2LUV HIM AS WE SHUD

VS 13C=GOD'S DEMANDS 4HIS PEO ALWAYS BIN SHUD POLO HIS COMMANDS

WEN G REVEAL SELF ULT IN JS XP HE SPKE FOLOWRS SAME MANNR

JOHN 14 AT LAST SUPPER - (TURN TO THIS) (TURN PAGE ECC)

VS 14=ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD IS TH/FINAL THING OF VALU IN EA PERSNS  
LIF

SOL HAD SERCH 4TRU MEAN OF LIF

HE START OUT W/HIS PLAN - "PLAN A"

BUT AFTR LK HIS EXPERS OF LIF, ALL HE HAD, WAT BIN GIVN,

CUM CONCLUSIN G SUPRCED PLAN "A" & REPLAC WITH PLAN "B"

ALL ALONG, ALL THRU LIF IT IS G'S PLAN, G'S DESIGN

ALL HE HAD 2DO WAS RES IN G'S CARE, SEKK W/WHOL HART, SOUL, MIND &

GOD WUD TAK CARE OF ALL

JS SUMUP=SEEK 1st, K OF G & HIS RITUSNES, & ALL THEZ TH WILB ADDED

IT IS G FIRST, NUTH ELSE, NUTH LESS UNTO U

PUT GOD FIRST IN UR LIF & HE WIL GIV U TH/RICHES HIS KINGDOM

4 DONT NEED MONY, POWR OR

POSSESSINS FOR LIF

ALL U NEED IS GOD & HE WIL

PROVID

AFTR ALL HIS YRS OF ACUMUL

WELTH/POWR & THINGS OF LIF,

SOL FINLY CAM CONCL THIS WAS

FUTIL

IT "WANTY" OR MEANINGLESS

1 2 TH/SECRET IS SIMPLY

GOD.

DO U KNO THAT 2DAY??

IS G AT TH/CENTR OF UR LIF?

CAN U HONESTLY SAY NUTHIN

ELS MATTRS??

CLAIM HIM AS TH/LORD OF UR

LIF THRU XP & LET HIM ADD

ALL OF TH/THINGS HE WIL

GIV U OF HIS RICHES IN

GLORY

CUM TO HIM TODAY



JOHN 14:15, and 21 - (READ THEZ VSS)

3/

WAT WER HIS COMMANDMENTS?

JS IDENTIFIED IT BY SAYING:

FIRST: "THO SHALT LOV TH/L THY G W/ALL THY HART, & W/ALL THY SOUL, & W/ALL THY MIND.

THIS IS TH/FIRST & GRT COMANDMENT

SECOND: "THOU SHALT LUV THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF"

TH/WHOLE DUTY OF MAN IS TO LUV GOD

ANYONE CAN DO THIS

IT DUZNT REQUOR MATERIAL POSESINS, OR WELTH, OR POWR

IT SIMPLY LUVING HIM & THIS CAN BEST B SHOWN BY LIVING FOR HIM

(ILUS OF CHRIST SHOWN IN A MISSIONARY'S LIF, & GRAVE)

THIS IS AN EXAMPL OF TH/INFLUENC ONE PERSN CAN HAV ON OTHR PEO-  
PLE'S LIVS

CAN THEY SAY THAT OF US????

THEN SOL CLOSES HIS BUK BY TH/WORDS WE READ IN TH/LAST VS  
(TURN BAK TO CHAPTR 12:14)

"Plan B Becomes Plan A"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

(Illustration of janitor talking about furnace, overheard by parishioner who thought pastor)  
The janitor of a church was speaking to someone about the furnace. He was overheard by one of the church members who thought he was talking about the minister. What he heard was, "The blower still works, but the fire has gone out."

There are misconceptions in all sorts of things, and many times things just do not come out quite like they are intended.

(Illustration of Edward Muskie and banquet; seated between two women and advice given to him.)  
Edmund Muskie tells of a time he was invited to speak at a banquet and he was to be seated between two leading ladies of the community. He didn't quite know how to initiate a conversation so he asked a man who coached him on speaking. The coach said, "Turn to the lady on the left and ask if she is married, then ask if she has any children." He said she would pick up the conversation from there. Then he advised him to turn to the lady on the right and do the same thing. Muskie thought that sounded like a good idea and decided to try it.

The next day he came looking for his coach with fire in his eyes and told him it didn't work at all. He said he turned to the lady on the left and asked her if ~~she was married~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ was married and she said she was not. Then I asked her if she had any children and she didn't speak the rest of the evening. So I decided to talk to the lady on my right and I asked her if she had any children and she replied that she did. And then I asked her if she was married."

I'm sure that all of us have tried to do something with very good intentions and have found that somehow or other things just didn't work out as anticipated.

King Solomon had been searching for the real meaning of life as he pondered it in his old age. He knew that in the not too distant future he would pass on and he wanted to know what he could do to get back on track once again. It seemed like life had passed him by for quite a few of these latter years and he was upset and disturbed by this. To help in that search he put his thoughts in writing. Very logically and rationally he put forth his argument piece by piece. He took the experiences of his life, he looked at all of his possessions, and he determined what his thinking and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ attitude toward life was and from all of this he penned the lines of what we call the book of Ecclesiastes. Much of what he saw of life consisted for him as mere "vanity," or meaninglessness.

In the last chapter of this book, chapter 12, he has a two point summation of all of life. We looked at the first part last week and it dealt very much with the aging process and how young people should come to God in the vigor of life. Now he begins by saying, "In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge."

There are those who look at these words and declare that Solomon was boasting or bragging about what he had done. But if you look at these words you can quickly discount that kind of thinking about the old man. First of all he points himself out once again in the third person. He doesn't say, "I am a wise man." Instead it is, "In addition to being a wise man," and then he imparts that he, the preacher also taught the people knowledge. Is that boasting? Certainly not, because knowledge is what any people want from their leaders. That's what leaders are for and if they do not impart knowledge, who will? So he adds, "And he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs."

We are told in Scripture that Solomon gave over 3000 proverbs. And he then tells why he did this by saying, "The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth Correctly," verse 10.



And again, there is nothing wrong with a good leader sharing his insights with his people to better enable them to cope with life and its problems.

Next, Solomon gives the reasons for words of wisdom and knowledge. He says ~~xxx~~, "The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd," verse 11.

Goads, were wooden rods with iron points on them to prod the oxen to make them increase their speed or get into action. Nails were what the shepherds used to fasten their tents. The "One Shepherd," refers to God. All of the wisdom that has come to the people, although it may have been given by men like Solomon, it has come to them from God. God is like the ONE and ONLY Shepherd, leading and directing His people through the wisdom imparted by His servants down through the years. So Solomon comes to his summation, but before he presents his final words he gives a warning and he says, (read verse 12). Many, many books had been written and many, many more were written after Solomon's books. The tendency then was exactly the same as it is today and that is to consult the wisdom imparted by the authors of books ~~xx~~ to the exclusion of God. There is nothing wrong with seeking the wisdom to be found by those who are scholars in certain fields, but when these scholars become the final authority and what they write or declare is accepted over what God has imparted in His Word, then book learning is wrong. Anything that is written, or put forth as scholarship must be held up to the light of Scripture. We must always ask the question, "How does this square with God's Word?" And if it is opposed to what God says, throw it out.

Now Solomon begins his final summation. He says, "The conclusion, when all has been heard is: Fear God," verse 13A.

This is the first of two parts. But it is the very first step a person must take. Solomon wrote of this in his book of Proverbs. In the 1st chapter the 7th verse he says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

And in the 9th chapter the 10th verse he says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Here in both of these instances, it is the Fear of God that brings knowledge and understanding. The word "fear" simply means in the Hebrew, "To revere, to be had in reverence." If God is held in reverence, then that person is at the beginning of his search for the real meaning of life because God does not impart anything that is harmful or false to any who seek Him. If we reverence God, we begin to love Him as we should.

The second part of Solomon's conclusion is, "And keep His commandments, because this applies to every person," verse 13B.

God's demand for His people had always been that they should follow His commandments. When God revealed Himself ultimately and completely in Jesus Christ, He spoke to His followers in the same manner. In John's Gospel, the 14th chapter we read in the 15th verse He said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

And in the 21st verse He says, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and disclose Myself to him."

And what was the commandments that were to be kept? Jesus identified it by saying, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind." And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

To

The whole duty of man is to love God. Anyone can do this. It doesn't require material possessions, or wealth, or power. It is simply loving Him, and this can best be shown by living for Him.

(Illustration of Phocas as a Christian example)

In the 4th century a Christian named Phocas lived in Asia Minor. Hundreds of travelers to the city passed by his door. They would stop for a while in his garden on their journey and Phocas would talk to them of Christ. Then came the Diocletian persecution, and Phocas was named as a Christian. Men were sent to kill him on the spot. As they neared his home, one hot day, Phocas saw them coming and invited them to share the cool of his garden. "What is your business?" asked Phocas. One replied, "We seek a Christian named Phocas for execution. Do you know him?" "I know him quite well," said Phocas. "He is quite near; let us attend to it in the morning."

That night Phocas sat thinking in his garden. He could escape or hide with other Christians. But the others would be endangered; and he would be jeopardizing the lives of the soldiers who were ordered to execute him. He asked himself, "Should I run? Should these soldiers forfeit their lives for mine? My Lord did not run."

By dawn he had dug his own grave. He awakened his guests and told them, "I am Phocas."

The soldiers refused to kill him, but he calmly told them to think of themselves and their dear ones. They had their duty and he had nothing but love in his heart for them. A sword

~~This is an extreme example of the love of Christ. This is perhaps not something~~  
swept and the blood of Phocas mingled with the garden he loved.  
each of us.

This is an extreme example of the love of Christ. This is perhaps not ~~something~~ each Christian may be called upon to do. But it exhibits the love Jesus was talking about and it exhibits the conclusion that Solomon had arrived at. In his quest to find the true meaning of life, Solomon had looked at all that he had, all of his experiences and he came to the conclusion that his original intent was faulty. What had started out as his plan, "Plan A," was superseded by God's plan, "Plan B." All along it was God's plan, God's design. And all he had to do was to rest in God's care, seek Him with his heart and soul and mind, and God would take care of all.

Jesus summed it up best when He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

It is God first. Nothing else, nothing less. Put God first in your life and He will give you the riches of His kingdom. You don't need money, or power, or possessions for life. All you need is God and He will provide. After all of his years of accumulating wealth and power and all of the things of life with his own strength and power, Solomon came to the ultimate conclusion that it was futile. It was meaningless because the secret was simply GOD.

Do you know that today? Is God at the center of your life? Can you honestly say that nothing else matters? Claim Him as the Lord of your life through Christ and let Him add all of the things He will give you of His riches in glory.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 29, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

+ + + + +  
SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys

\*Ascription

\*Call to Worship:

Pastor - Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
and the people whom He hath chosen for His  
own inheritance.

People - Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is  
a reproach to any people.

Pastor - If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice  
of the Lord thy God, the Lord thy God will set  
thee on high above all the nations of the earth.

All - God says, "If My people, which are called by My  
name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and  
seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways;  
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive  
their sin, and will heal their land.

\*Processional Hymn No. 690 "America, the Beautiful"

\*Posting of the Colors

\*Pledge of Allegiance

\*Invocation

\*Presentation of New Flags to the Congregation

\*Star Spangled Banner No. 688

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

\*Salute To Our Veterans

Anthem: "God Bless America"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 30: 9-20

Sermon: "Baggage Watchers"

\*Closing Hymn "God Bless America" (printed on bulletin)

\*Taps *READ DECEASED VETERAN NAMES*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Lenora Stanley in memory of Robert.

"GOD BLESS AMERICA"

God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Thru the night with a light from above  
From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans  
white with foam

God bless America, My home sweet home,  
God bless America, My home sweet home.

+ + + + +

Mrs. Lenora Stanley will greet our members and guests at  
the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Marge Smiley, Deb Melton, Genny  
Nohach and Lucille Tack.

Nursery will be provided today by Dave Brinker and Mike Kay.  
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 10 visitors.

Paul Campbell and Bill Pflugh will be visiting the hosp-  
ital this week.

SUNDAY - no youth group

THURSDAY - Choir practices need a full choir. We are all  
urged to attend. This is not only preparation for the  
Sunday services, but for the Day of Praise Festival on  
June 12th. Please make the effort to attend.

This week the Pastor and 4 laymen from the congregation  
will be attending the Moody Pastors Conference. If you  
have a concern or need, please get in touch with Ginny  
at home or at the church office.

JUNE 4th CAR WASH - the Youth Group will be holding a car  
wash at Arby's at the Clearview Mall, beginning at  
10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 5th - Congregational meeting immediately following  
the service in Rehoboth Hall. We need you  
there, so please make the effort to attend.

June 6th - Benevolence Committee meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
VBS meeting at 7:30 P.M. We need all helpers  
and teachers to attend.

June 8th - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

We wish to extend a warm welcome and a thank you to those  
assisting with the service today. The Butler High  
School Junior ROTC Color Guard, Moniteau Ceremonial  
Squad, and Senator Tim Shaffer for his gift of flags to  
St. Paul's.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE**

**May 31, 1998**  
PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

\*\*HYMN-----To God Be The Glory-----#363

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

INFANT DEDICATION: Today, we welcome into our midst one of God's very special little miracles, and we dedicate him to the Lord. Nathaniel Thomas Lingenfelter is the infant son of John & Jennifer Lingenfelter who was born prematurely on March 27, 1998.

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----It Is Well With My Soul-----#495

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 30:9-20

SERMON: "Baggage Watchers"

\*\*INVITATIONAL HYMN---Have Thine Own Way Lord--#400

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

\*\* Please stand

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....**

- \* **June 5 - 6, 1998:** Revival... Please plan to renew your faith in JESUS! Ed & Janet McDaniel. Friday 7:30 PM Saturday 7:00 PM.
- \* **June 6, 1998:** Family Banquet
- \* Pre-registration forms for Vacation Bible School goes to JoAnn or Joyce.
- \* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.
- \* The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth. This is the last day to get your coupons please see Mona or Joyce today.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

June 1-----George Mikeska  
June 6-----Wayne Stear

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**

When you're lonely,  
... we wish you LOVE.  
When you're down,  
... we wish you JOY  
When you're troubled,  
... we wish you PEACE.  
When things look empty,  
... we wish you HOPE.

... Source unknown

*S. DAKOTA TORNADO  
AFGANISTAN - EARTHQUAKE  
BERNARD  
HENRIETTA*



SCRIP: 1 SAM 30:9-20; SERMON: "BAGGAGE WATCHERS"

(ILUS KITCHEN MOTTO & PAINTING IN THE LOUVRE, PARIS)

HOW OFT THINK MENIAL TASK AS "DIVIN SERVIC?"

SUCH CHORS R 2B GOTTN OVR/DUN WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSIBL

THAT WAY CAN GET ON W/BIGGR/BETTR THINGS OF LIF-THINGS VALUE

EN/ POET JN MILTON PEN LINES:

"...BY ALSO SERV WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT."

MOSLY PEO NO STIR BY SIMPL SERV, WE R STIR BY POMP/CERMCNY & WE

THINK SIMPL SERV IS SUMTH 2B ENDURED, A NECESARY EVIL

K DAVID PROVD THIS THEORY WRONG

(BAKGR K DAV FLEE SAUL, FITE W/PHILS & WHIL ABSENT A-MAIKITES

BURN ZIKLAG; TAK WIVS & OTHERS; DAV RETURN & SET GO AFTR THEM;

600 MEN, 400 WITH 200 FATIGUE, STAY BHIN THIS WHER SCRP BGIN)

DAV GET WIVS/POSEWNS/FAMLYS BAK & THEN WE READ .....

VS 21=HE SALUTES TH/BAGAG WATCHRS IF U WIL

LET KNO THEY JUS AS IMPORT AS THOZ WHO WENT IN2BATTL

VS 22=NO RISK LIVS LK US -(SONS OF DEVIL - JELOSY, HATRED, ETC)

VS 23=G BROT BOUT VICTRY, SAVD THER LIVS, LIVS OF WIVS, FAMLYS

VS 24=BOTH FITERS/BAGAG WATCHRS EQUAL IMPOTANC

DAV EXPL THIS VS 24B=(READ THIS)

IT SO IMPORT DAV MADE LAW - VS 25= ( READ THIS)

WE HAV TENDENCY DO THIS, GLORFY VETS, OVRLOOK TH/REST

SHUD HONOR VETS, BUT SUMTH 2B SED 4THOZ WHO WATCH TH/BAGAG

(ILUS RECAL WW II, THOZ DEFER 4WORK, 4F, ETC & HOW LK AT)

GOOD ILUSTRATIN FITS THIS SITUATIN IN TH/LIF OF JS

JOHN 13:3-5

TURN TO JOHN 13, READ & EXPLAIN

JOHN 13:3-5, 12-16

VSS 3-5=JS ACTS AS ORDINARY SERVANT & WASHES DISCIPLS FEET

VS 12=QUESTIN???

VSS 13-16= THIS MENIAL TASK ,LK DWN ON BCUZ SERVS SHUD DO IT

BUT JS SAY WE SHUDB WIL 2DO

(I' SIDNEY LANIER, FLUTE & MINUTE PART OF ORCHESTRA)

MAL. TIMES THINK WE NO COUNT, BUT OUR CONTRIBUTIN NEEDED

PAUL TEL US WATEVR DO, TO TH/GLORY OF GOD

THAT MEAN=WASH DISH, SCRUB POTS, MOP FLOORS DO AS THO U R DOING

IT FOR GOD'S INSPECTION

(ILUS NURSE AND INFECTED LEG, "NOT FOR A MILLION DOLLARS)

NOT FOR MONEY, BUT BCUZ OF SERVIC 2TH/LORD SHUDB OUR ATITUD

THUS WE NEED 2HONOR THOZ WHO IN ESSENC R BAGGAGE WATCHERS

(ASK VETERANS TO STAND - RECOGNIZE THEM )

ASK ASNYONE WHO WAITED AT HOME FOR LOVED ONE IN SERVICE, OR

WORKED DEFENSE PLANT, MINING OR OTHERS DURING WARS??????

WE APPLAUD YOU WHO HAVE BIN IN ESSENC "BAGGAGE WATCHERS"

EA US HAV TASK 2PERFORM IN OUR LIVS,

WE R CALLD 2B SERVS OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

BUT THAT DUZNT SAY WE MUS GO REMOT PARTS OW WORL 2SERV

(ILUS BILLY SUNDAY, HYMN "BRITEN TH/CORNER WHER U R")

WE CAN & SHUD SERV RITE WHER WE R 2TH/BEST OF OUR ABILTY

BUT THOZ BHIN SCENES JUS AS IMPORT AS THOZ FRONT LINES

DAVID SUMS IT UP W/WORDS 1 SAMUEL 30:24;

BUT AS HIS PART IS THAT GOETH DOWN TO THE BATTLE,

SHALL HIS PART BE THAT TARRIETH BY THE STUFF:

THEY SHALL PART ALIKE

IN OTHER WORDS BOTH THOZ WHO SERV IN BATTL. & THOZ WHO ARE

"BAGGAGE WATCHERS" SHARE OR SHUD SHARE TH/SAME RECOGNITION

IN GOD'S SIGHT

SERV HIM & LUV HIM WHEREVR U ARE

# "Baggage Watchers"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:9-20

(Ilus motto ovr kitchn sink-Divin servics conduc 3times daily)

How oft think menial task as B Divin servs?

mosly such chors R considr as sumth 2get ovr & dun with as quik as posib so can get on w/bigr/bettr things of worth/valu

Mi n=They also serv who only stand & wait

Mosly no C much glory in simpl serv & wud ventur say mos peo R stir by pomp/cermony, but thikg simpl serv a neces evil 2B endur

It K Dav who prov this theory wrong

2ward end K Saul reign Dav ~~xxxx~~ disprov theory menial serv is not as import as miltry serv

Saul think Dav try seiz thron sot kil Dav & Dav flee 2 Phils

they gav town=Ziklag & Dav 600 men famlys settl ther

Th/Philis wer hatd enmys of Isites & they thot strng loyl subj of

K of Is. shud join 4ces w/them

But wen Dav prov valor by fite 4 Phils, they gladly giv Ziklag

(Ex=Philis fite Isites & Dav mus mak choic)

But choic made 4him & Dav & men return home 2sit this 1 out

30:1-2=apromch & C city on fire & this mean city takn

vs 3=discovr city desert & peo takn captiv

vs 4-6=reactin men w/Dav was ston him as tho responsbl 4this

But Dav as custom turn 2-G, & want find out wat G want=vs 7-8

Ephod=Hi Pr & sacred dice=This detrmn wat 2do

vs 9-10=two grps peo w/Dav=400 who went on & 200 tired men stay

Bhin

thez 200 wer exhaus & it necessary 2watch baggag until return

Thus Dav & men recaptur famlys, cattl, etc & return

vs 21=gran reunion takn plac

vs 22=green ey monst jealousy rear ugly hed & quests=How do thez

get sam we do? They no risk livs. All did was sit by Baggage whil

w risk livs 4them. Who do they thik ~~xxxx~~ they R?

& on & on go self-prais bout how import they wer & how unimport

was Baggage Watchers

(Ilus wat hspn signrs Dec of Independ)

evrl lk thez men & wat sac 4our freedom & wel they shud

Nun us shud evr tak litly wat they did

But duz anyl evr considr wat wivs & childrn thez men had 2suffr

along w/them?

it tuk unrecogniz peo Bhin scenes, sac & giv of selvs & watch

baggag if U wil 2accomplish our fredum

Othrs had 2sac so we can enjoy fredum 2day & it not jus ones who

match off 2fite battl w/bands & fanfare

we shud honor our brav conuntrymen who gav livs 4us & we shud

honor ea & evry individ who has serf in armd forces our natin

But mus nevr 4get th=Baggage Watchrs who wer Bhin th/scenes in

evry war this natin bin involv in

2do so is an injustic 2countles Americns who wil nevr receiv any honors, yet they gav of themslevs so we can liv in free America

Dav undrtud this quit wel & sum=vs 23-25

this wat Milton convey wen sed=They also serv who only st & wai

Tad homfirs is not glamrus but it import part our heritag & we ne

4. 2 honor all Americans no mattr wat tole play 2furthr fredum

one of strng ldrs was Fathr of Country=Geo Wash & his integrity

I shuddr 2think wat news media wud mak of him 2day if aliv

I Bliev they wud tear apart his driv 4truth

Ilus of him & cannot tel a lie=mite/mitenot B tru, but it portray him as man of honor

(Ilus boy in SS & A Ly is an abomnatin 2 th/L; but presen heplp in time of trouble)

That sumup wat many peo feel bouy lying 2day

We hav seen it, read of it, herd of it fr/halls of govt 2 ch's

& into homes of our natin

We cannot, we mus not 4get th/living & th/ded who sac in any way

2giv us our fredum we enjoy

that includ mothrs/fathrs whos sons fot & died; sistrs/bros who cud not march off 2war; men/womn who toil in mills & plants oftn

7 days wk; teachrs/educatrs who continu train yng minds of futur genratins

All of thez wer & R import

(Ilus Ode 2 Freedom givn by Clarence Diamond)

(Ilus Late Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam & Gettysburg address)

It is peo who made this country great

it comon ord peo who unherald in histry who quietly/silently ~~xx~~

Bhin scenes maks posib 2liv in wondrful country such as ours

It taks evrone serv, no mattr who or wat ther servic miteB

saw this ~~xx~~ & knu as fact of lif

He sed=vs 24

If Ur job has bin Bhin th/scenes, or out in th/public eye, ea of U hav serv or R serv

It taks peo 2B in th/military 2march off 2war & defend fredum

But it also taks Baggage Watchers as wel

& G blesses our servic if we serv in His name



Invocation:

Help us, O God, to love our country. Grant us grace to cherish the ideals which made it possible and have given it eminence among the nations. May the faith of our fathers be our faith. Forgive us our personal and national sins, and endow us with the patriotism that reveals a likeness to Thee in love and righteousness. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Presentation of new flags:

(Ask Dick Mangel to assist)

At this time I would like to introduce Senator Tim Shaffer who is visiting us this morning.

Senator Shaffer has come for a specific purpose and I welcome him on behalf of our congregation.

Salute to our Veterans:

At this time we want to salute our veterans

As your name is called please come forward & remain at the front of the chancel rail

Before Taps, after closing hymn:

READ NAMES OF DECEASED VETERANS

DECEASED VETERANS

Ralph Cooper

George Eichhorn

Frank Meier

Robert Tait

John Custead

Louis Zubik

Robert McClymonds

Rev. Harvey Goodling

Deceased members we honor:

Ralph Cooper

George Eichhorn

Robert Tait

Robert McClymonds

Louis Zubik

Frank Meier

John Custead

Rev. Harvey Goodling

Moniteau Ceremonial Squad

*Chuck McWilliams	U.S. Navy	WW II	USANG
Larry Thompson	U.S. Navy	WW II	deceased
Vic Steinheiser	U.S. Navy	WW II	
Dean Bollinger	U.S. Navy	WW II	
Chuck Ferrer	U.S. Army	WW II	
Tom Colosimo	U.S. Army	Korea	
Pat Isacco	U.S. Army	Korea	
Lloyd Tennies	U.S. Army	Korea (chaplain)	
Don Craig	U.S. Army	Korea	
Gary Donaldson	U.S. Marines	Vietnam	
Rick Carley	U.S. Army	Vietnam	
Gary Fitzingo	U.S. Army National Guard		
Jessica Dilliaman	Moniteau High School - Bugler		
Scott McClimens	Moniteau High School - Bugler		
Rod Hedglin	U.S. Army	Vietnam	
Otto Betner		Yugoslavia	

Butler Junior ROTC Color Guard -\*Sgt. Richard Colgate

Nechol Orebaugh

Charlie Deal

Lance Bonnett

Danny Mangel

Todd Rensel

Immediately following the service today we invite each one of you to attend a luncheon in Rehoboth Hall. This is hosted by the church Hospitality Committee in honor of our veterans.

"Baggage Watchers"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:9-20

(Illustration of motto hanging over a kitchen sink)

I read recently of a woman who had a little motto hanging above her kitchen sink which reads as follows:

"Divine service is conducted here three times daily."

How often do we ever think of menial tasks as being "divine service?" Mostly, such chores are considered as something to get over and done with as quickly as possible ~~so~~ so we can get on with bigger and better things of worth and value.

The English poet John Milton penned the famous lines, "They also serve who only stand and wait!" ~~Mostly~~ Mostly we do not see much glory in simple service. I would venture to say that almost all people are stirred by pomp and ceremony, but think of simple service as a necessary evil to be endured. It was King David of Israel who proved this theory wrong.

It was ~~about~~ toward the end of the reign of King Saul that David actually disproved the theory that menial service is not as important as military or patriotic service. Saul, thinking that David was trying to seize the throne for himself, had sought to kill David. So David in his quest to remain alive and to succeed Saul as King of Israel ~~for~~ fled to the land of the Philistines. These were the hated enemies of the Israelites and they thought it was rather strange that David who was a loyal subject to the King of Israel should join forces with them. But when David proved his valor by fighting for the Philistines he was given a city in which to settle with his family and the families of the 600 men who were with him. This city was named Ziklag. So it was that David and his men had marched off with the Philistines to do battle with Saul and the Israelites. David knew that he had to either fight for the Philistines and seek to overcome Saul and his men, or turn against the Philistines and side with Saul's army. Either choice would have proved a difficult decision to make. But the Philistine leaders had thought this situation through and so they decided to ask David to return to his home and to sit this one out. So David and his men start the journey back to their homes in Ziklag.

So it is that we read in the beginning of this 30th chapter of 1st Samuel, (read verses 1 & 2). As they approached the city they saw the smoke rising from it, and it could only mean one thing - the city had been set on fire. So we read, (Read verse 3).

As they entered the city they discovered it was deserted and all the people had been carried off captive. This caused David and the people to mourn for their losses, (read verses 4-6). The reaction of the men with David was to stone him as though he were responsible for this evil deed taking place. But David as was his custom, turned to God. In fact, he wanted to find out what God wanted him to do in this situation, and we read, (read verses 7-8). The Ephod was the ceremonial dress the ~~priest~~ High Priest wore and on it were the sacred dice which were used to determine what God wanted done. So by whatever means employed, David determined that God would deliver the Amalekites into their hands and return the wives and families of David and his men. So it is then that we read as we did in our Scripture for this morning, (Read verses 9-10). There were two groups of people with David. There was first the 400 men who went with him in pursuit of the Amalekites, and there were the 200 men who had



been physically exhausted in their return to Ziklag and now in their haste to follow the Amalekites. So David took all of the unnecessary equipment that was not needed for this campaign and he piled it at a certain place and left the 200 hundred men to watch it until they returned. These were the "baggage Watchers."

Thus it is that we read of the events which lead up to the return of David's wives and families as well as the families of his 600 men, plus all of their livestock and cattle. So they began their return to Ziklag and it is at this point that we learn of the problem that arises which continues beyond the Scripture we read this morning.

In the 21st verse we read, (read verse 21). A grand reunion takes place between David and the "Baggage Watchers" he had left behind. But this doesn't set too well with some of David's men, and we learn as we read on, (Read verse 22). ~~xxx~~ The old green-eyed monster, jealousy raises its ugly head. It's the old story which we all know so well. "How can these guys get the same rewards that we do? They didn't risk their lives. All they did was to sit here by the roadside guarding the baggage, while we risked our necks for them. Who do they think they are? And on and on goes the self-praise about how important they were and how unimportant the "Baggage Watchers" were.

(Illustration of what happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence)

Everyone looks at these men and what they sacrificed for our freedom. And well they should! None of us should ever take lightly what they did. But does anyone ever consider what the wives and children of these men had to suffer along with these men? It took unrecognized people behind the scenes sacrificing, and giving of themselves, and watching the baggage if you will to accomplish our freedom. Others had to sacrifice so we can enjoy freedom today and it wasn't just the ones who marched off to fight the battles. We should honor our brave countrymen who gave their lives for us; and we should honor each and every individual who has served in the armed forces of our country. But we must ~~xxxxxxx~~ never forget the "Baggage Watchers" who were behind the scenes in every war this nation has been involved in. To do so is an injustice to the countless American men and women who will never receive any honors, yet, they gave of themselves so that we can live in a free America.

David understood this quite well and summed it up in the following words, (read verses 23-25).

This is what Milton was conveying in his words, "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Tending the homefires isn't glamorous, but it is an important part of our heritage and we need to honor all Americans who have helped further our freedom whatever their role.

For the past few years patriotism had taken a downturn in our nation. It simply wasn't fashionable to be patriotic. It has come to the point where it is optional whether students in certain schools must pledge allegiance to the flag, or to sing the National Anthem. One of the strong leaders of our nation, our first president George Washington was portrayed as a man of intense integrity. I shudder to think of what the news media would be doing to him if he were alive today. He is purported as telling his father, "I cannot tell a lie." Whether he did or didn't say that is of no consequence. But what it proves is that he was portrayed as a man of honor. Perhaps the story of a modern Sunday School boy portrays what the modern example of that is.

(Illustration of boy in Sunday School and answer to "what is a lie")

A teacher in a Sunday School class had been teaching about lying and not telling the truth. She emphasized how God looked upon this as a sin. So she asked the question, "What is a lie?" For a period of time no one answered. Then one little boy raised his hand and when the teacher called on him he said, "A lie is an abomination to the Lord." And the teacher nodded her head and smiled and said that's right. But before she could stop him he said, "But it is a very present help in time of trouble."

And that pretty much sums up what many people feel about lying today. We have seen it and read of it from the halls of government down ~~to~~ through the church and into the homes of our nation. We cannot, we must not, forget the living and the dead who sacrificed in any way to ~~bring~~ give us the freedom which is ours in America. That includes the mothers whose sons fought and died, the sisters and brothers who could not march off to war; the men and women who toiled in the factories for long hours, often 7 days a week; the teachers and educators who continued to train the young minds of those coming generations. All of them were and are ~~im~~portant.

(Illustration of Ode to Freedom, sent in by a church member - Clarence Diamond)

The late Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam tells of giving the annual Memorial Day address at the national monument in Gettysburg and how he concluded his speech with the Gettysburg Address).

(Illustration of this and man who heard Abe Lincoln give it)

It is the people who have made this country great. It is common ordinary people who are unheralded in history who quietly and silently behind the scenes make it possible to live in a wonderful country such as ours. It takes everyone serving no matter who or what their service might be. David saw this and knew it as a fact of life. The truth is, "For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike," verse 24.

If your job has been behind the scenes, or out in the public eye, each of you have served or are serving. It takes people to be in the military to march off and defend our freedom. But it also takes "Baggage Watchers" as well. And God blesses our service if we serve in His name.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 5, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Mike Gamble  
+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. + + + + +

\*Prelude  
\*Chiming of the Hour  
\*Announcements  
\*Congregational Greeting  
\*Joys  
\*Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 451 "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"  
\*Ascription  
\*The Call to Communion (communion folder)  
\*The Confession  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "There's Something About That Name" (organ & sax)  
Scripture: 2 Samuel 9: 7-13  
Sermon: "The Royal for the Loyal"  
Communion Hymn No. 560 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"  
\*Service of Holy Communion (page 2 of communion folder)  
The Lord's Supper (Ushers will direct you to the rail)  
Distribution of the Bread  
Distribution of the Cup  
\*Prayer of Thanksgiving  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 407 "Lead Me to Calvary"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Emogene Massey in memory of her father.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Draxinger will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.  
Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Jeff Snyder  
and Frank Crawford.

Nursery will be provided today by John Penrod and Mike Gamble.  
Attendance last Sunday was 178 with 39 visitors.  
Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel will be visiting the hospital this week.  
SUNDAY - Youth Group and Junior Youth  
MONDAY - Benevolence Committee at 7:00 P.M.  
Property Committee will meet at 7:30 P.M.  
VBS staff and teachers will meet at 7:30 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
THURSDAY - Choir practice for all choirs! Youth at 6,  
Chancel choir at 7, Cantata choir at 8!!!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER: *FAVORITE HYMNS*

> June 12 - Service at 11:00 a.m. will be our kick off for our "Day of Song and Praise", followed by a luncheon sponsored by the Youth. That same evening at 7:30 P.M. the choir will do a Cantata entitled "Glorify His Name." After the cantata the Youth invite each of you to a Strawberry Festival in Rehoboth Hall.

> June 14 - ALL Sunday School teachers are asked to come to a meeting at 7:00 P.M.

> June 15 - Finance Committee meeting at 7:00 P.M.

> June 20-24 Vacation Bible School each evening 6:30 to 9.  
June 26 - Church Service and Picnic in Memorial Park.  
Vacation Bible School is fast approaching and we still need some helpers and cookies for refreshments. If you would like to make cookies, please see Mary Jane and if you can help in any way, see LuAnn Janicki. Also today is an opportunity for you to pre-register or for anyone you may want to bring with you. Remember, we have a class for adults as well.

We need flowers for June 19, July 31, and for several weeks there after. Please take a moment and sign up for flowers in memory of a loved one.

> We wish to express our congratulations and best wishes to any Senior classman who is graduating from high school, or any other institute of education this year.

> Immediately following the service today we will have a special Congregational meeting in Rehoboth Hall. This is of utmost importance and we need you there. It was explained in the Newsletter why we must have this meeting and we hope your interest in the church and its function will bring you to the meeting. This is all in relation to the heating system of the church as well as the church Van. Please make the effort to stay.

Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. - June 7, 1992

Prelude

Greetings/Joys/Announcements/Prayer Requests

Ascription

Call To Worship:

THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD ~~XXXXXXXX~~ HATH MADE:  
WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.  
THOU ART MY GOD, AND I WILL ~~EXALTHEE~~ PRAISE THEE:  
THOU ART MY GOD, I WILL EXALT THEE.  
O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD:  
FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOREVER.

\*Hymn

Offering/Prayer

\*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9:7-13

Sermon: "The Royal For The Loyal" - St. Paul's Butler  
June 5, 1988

The Lord's Supper

\*Hymn

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

KATHY  
UNWICKED  
JEAN

the royal for the loyal

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9:7-13

(Ilus of hospitality in East/West Berlin)

En givs wat he has! 2say that is 2indicat wat a persn shars & sharing is hospitalty

How & wat we shar is indicativ of wat we hav in our harts

K Dav of Is had asum th/thron aftr tak ovr aftr deth of Saul

& Paul's son Jonthan had bin very gud frends

Wen Jon dy Dav mus hav made vow wud try do 4thoz of Jons relat:

Bcuz that loyl frendship

vs 1-rt of sucesin 2thron was son succeed fathr, or son of son asum thron

Dav fr/nothr famly, nothr tribe & was not th/heir-aparent 2 the thron of Is

So Dav seek fulfil debt frendship 2 Jon, & sot 2tak care of thoz of Jons line

vs 2-5=As story unfold

vs 6=here is 4mer princ who had no claim 2thron, in fac, had 2 fear 4his lif, Bcuz many times nu king wud tak care this

Also had no pwr 2ovrcum Dav & asum thron grandfathr had saton He was brot out of nuthnes & givn plac w/in kingdm of presen: King David.

vs 7=Dav establish Mephibosheth in this

Dav not only sho him kindnes, but mercy as wel

this kindnes gav Mephib th/land/property grndfathr Saul had

But it also exten to Mephibosheth th/honor of eat at K's tabl

lday aftr deth his grndfathr & his fathr Mephib turn out 2B

jus nothr ex-prince

then sevrl yrs latr he invit 2sit at tabl of nu king & 2shar

all th/blesings wh/this relatship entails

lday a specil man/womn shar perf envirmnt

they had evrth anyl cud want

en by simpl act disobed los evrth they had bin givn

Ther livs tuk on an aspec of hard work jus 2 surviv

But not only this, all ther descendnts wer heirs this sam typ of

lif w/hardships & a sens of futilty

many genratins pas & all w/sam bleak outlk

then aftr much wish/hope a princ ascend 2-th/thron of Fathr

& He brot w/Him, not only kingdm, but mercy

His subjees wer shutout of kingdm Bcuz stain w/sin, gilt

& then shortly B<sup>4</sup> His deth He gathr sum subjees rnd tabl w/Him,

& He tol them of His luv as Lk record in chap 22

vs 28-30=He tol them of His luv & how He, ther King was wil 2B

ther serv

it thru Js Xp we hav privileg of eat/drink at His tabl

we hav relatship w/King & He shar hospotalty w/us

this is oprtunty of liftim

It is=Th Royal For Th/Loyal

Th/Royal wh/is Js Xp shars His tabl w/th Loyl, thoz who R His

followers & Blong 2 Him



Vss 28-30A= He tol them of His luv & how He,ther K was wil 2B  
ther serv

it thru Js Xp we hav priv of eat/drink at His tabl

we hav relatship w/King & He shar hospitalty w/us

this optuntty of liftim

it is=Th/Royl For Th/Loyl

Th/Royl wh/is Js Xp,shars His tabl 2/th Loyl,thoz who R His  
followrs & Elong 2 Him

it is feast Byon cp & sumth lik story 2Oton erth mov machin

(Ilus Sparrow & - WAT A FEAST)

that shudB th/excl we shud mak - WOW, WAT A FEAST

it meal prep 4us by nun othr than th/King Himself

it optuntty 4 th/com/ord/loyl subjs 2dine w/Th KING

(Ilus poor man & relagship w/Js)

That is joy we shud hav

Js is w.us as we gathr rnd His tabl

He say 2us as Dav sed 2 Mephibos - 2 Samuel 9:7B

"AND THOU SHALT EAT BREAD AT MY TABLE"

COME!

Let us gather rnd His table!

"The Royal For The Loyal"

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9:7-13

(Illustration of "Each gives what he has")

East Berlin is communist controlled while West Berlin is free. One day some people in East Berlin took a truckload of garbage and dumped it on the West Berlin side.

The people in West Berlin had the opportunity to do exactly the same thing, but instead, they took a truckload of canned goods, bread and milk and neatly stacked it on the East Berlin side. On top of the stack they placed a sign which said, "Each gives what he has."

"Each gives what he has!" To say that, is to indicate what a person shares and sharing is hospitality. How, and what we share is indicative of what is in our hearts.

King David of Israel had assumed the throne taking over after the death of King Saul. David, and Saul's son Jonathon had become very dear friends. When Jonathon died David must have made a vow that he would try to do for Jonathon's what he could because of that loyal friendship. So it is recorded in the 9th chapter of 2 Samuel that David seeks to fulfill what he believes is an obligation to Jonathon's memory. We read in verse 1, (read this verse). Notice that David says, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathon's sake?"

The right of succession to the throne was that the son succeeded the father, or the son of the son assumed the throne. David was from another family and another tribe and was not to be the heir apparent to the throne of Israel. So David seeking to fulfill his debt of friendship to Jonathon sought to take care of any who remained from Jonathon's line.

And so the story unfolds as the author of this book of Samuel relates it in this chapter, (Read verses 2 through 5, and exposit).

Thus, Mephibosheth is brought to the palace, (read verse 6). Here is a former prince, who had no claim to the throne, no power to seek to overthrow King David and assume the throne his grandfather had sat on, who was brought out of nothingness and given a place of honor within the kingdom of the present King. David establishes Mephibosheth in this, (read verse 7). This is the direct opposite of what was normally done by a new king. Generally, the man assuming the throne sought out all of the male descendants of the former king and had them executed to assure that there wasn't an heir to the throne ~~xx~~ who could seek to overthrow the new king. So when David tells Mephibosheth that he is showing him "kindness for Jonathon's sake," he is also showing him mercy. That kindness and mercy extended to Mephibosheth gave him the land and property which his grandfather Saul had. But it also extended to Mephibosheth, the honor of eating at the king's table.

One day after the death of his grandfather and his father, Mephibosheth turned out to be just another ex-prince. Then, several years later he is invited to sit at the table of the new King and to share all of the blessings which this relationship entails.

One day, a special man and woman shared a perfect environment. They had everything anyone could possibly want. Then by a simple act of disobedience, they lost everything ~~xxxx~~ they had been given. Their life took on an aspect of hard work just to survive. But not only this, all of their descendants were heirs to this same type of life with hardships and a sense of futility. Many centuries passed and many generations, all with the same bleak



outlook. Then, after much wishing and hoping a Prince ascended to the throne of His Father, and He brought with Him, not only kindness, but also mercy. His subjects were shut out of the kingdom because they were stained with sin and guilt. And then, shortly before His death He gathered some of His subjects around His table and He said to them as it is recorded in Luke chapter 22, His words of comfort to them.

He told them of His love for them and how He, their King, was willing to be their servant.

He said as Luke records ~~xxxxx~~ starting at the 28th verse, "Ye are they which have continued with Me in My temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom as My Father hath appointed unto Me; that ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom." verses 28-30A.

It is through Jesus Christ that we have the privilege of eating and drinking at His table.

We have a relationship with the King and He shares His hospitality with us. It is the opportunity of a lifetime. It is "The Royal For The Loyal." The Royal, which is Jesus Christ, shares His table with The Loyal, those who are His followers and belong to Him. It is a feast beyond compare. It is something like the story of the 20 ton earthmoving machine:

(Illustration of sparrow and caterpillar tractor)

A huge earthmoving machine was moved into a certain area to begin clearing ground for a building complex. It was one of the largest ever made and on the side was painted the painted the information, "20 ton Caterpillar".

After everyone had left and the lot was quiet, sort of the calm before the storm, a small sparrow sat looking at that machine. He cocked his head and looked that machine up and down and then he read and re-read the words printed on the side. "He said, "20 ton caterpillar, Wow! What a worm!"

That should be the exclamation we should make. "Wow, what a feast!" It is a meal prepared for us by none other than the King Himself. It is the opportunity for the common, ordinary, loyal subjects to dine with the King.

(Illustration of poor man and his relationship with Jesus)

Each day about noon a minister noticed a poorly dressed man entering the church. Then a few minutes later he would leave. The pastor became concerned about this and so he told the custodian to checkup on the man. The custodian confronted the man who said, "I go in the church to pray." "Come now," the custodian said, "You aren't in there long enough to pray." The man answered, "I cannot pray long prayers every day, and I say, 'Jesus, it's Jim.' and I wait a couple minutes and then I leave." "It's just a little prayer, but I guess He hears me."

Some time later Jim was injured and taken to the hospital. But while he was there he seemed to be having a wonderful time. He cheered the patients up, even those who were grumpy and hard to get along with. The nurses noticed this and even noted that there was frequently laughter heard in the halls. One of the nurses questioned him and said, "Jim, they tell me you are responsible for the cheerfulness in this ward. And people tell me you are always happy." He said, "Yes, that's right. I can't help being happy. You see, it's my visitor. Everyday He makes me happy."

"Your visitor?," she asked. She knew that the chair beside his bed was always empty. He never had any visitors. So she asked, "When does he come?"

He said, "Every day. Yes, Maam, everyday about noon. He comes and stands at the foot of my bed. I see Him and He smiles and says, 'Hi Jim, it's Jesus.'"

That is the joy that we should have. Jesus is with us as we gather about His table. He says to us as David said to Mephibosheth, "And thou shalt eat bread at My table continually."

He shares with us His table, ~~xxxxx~~ "The Royal For The Loyal." Come! let us gather about His table!

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 12, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Mike Gamble  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 363 "To God Be the Glory"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) We offer to thee, O Father, praise  
for the gift of thy Spirit. We are made aware that your  
love is given to us in many ways. When we are lonely,  
when we are filled with doubt, when we show unbelief,  
it is your Spirit that fills us with your truth. And  
when we burn with hatred, or anger, or selfishness, or  
greed, it is your Spirit which speaks to us with your  
love. Forgive us, and may your Spirit live, guide,  
and direct us in all ways. Through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Congregation Selection of 2 Hymns  
(we will sing the first and last verses)  
Chancel Choir Anthem Selections: "What A Friend We Have  
In Jesus," - "Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen,"  
"Thy Will Be Done"  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory by the Youth Orchestra  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Congregation Selection of 2 Hymns  
(we will sing the first and last verses)  
Youth Choir Anthem Selections: "Truth" and "This Is The Day"  
Chancel Choir Anthem Selections: "Good News," - Great Is  
The Lord," - "Shout Amen"

Saxophone and Organ Duet  
Congregation Selection of 2 Hymns  
(we will sing the first and last verses)  
Invitation  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 435 "The Savior Is Waiting"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Weichey in memory of their Parents.  
Mr. Bobby Tedder will greet our members and guests at  
the door this morning.  
Ushers for today are Jeanne Snyder, Jane Weichey, Judy  
Shearer and Mid Diefenderfer.  
Attendance last Sunday was 140 with 12 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Michelle Henry. There  
will be nursery provided tonight for the Cantata.  
Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital  
this week.  
Immediately following the service today the Youth are  
inviting you to attend a Salad and Sandwich luncheon  
in Rehoboth Hall. Tonight following the Cantata at  
7:30 P.M. again the Youth will be having something  
good for you. A Strawberry Festival!! Please plan to  
attend all of the activities here at the church today.  
\*GLORIFY HIS NAME" ---- is the Cantata the Choir will be  
singing tonight at 7:30 P.M. Please bring along a  
friend and enjoy the evening in praising the Lord  
through music.  
Vacation Bible School is coming fast. Remember to regis-  
ter you and anyone coming with you. We are looking  
for another successful year. Please support us by  
attending or even bringing cookies. Dates are June  
20 through the 24th from 6:30 to 9 P.M.  
Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, follow-  
ed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity  
for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situa-  
tions you have the chance to respond to God's leading  
for your life by coming forward to the altar. The  
invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as  
Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.  
The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please  
avail yourself of this opportunity.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 19, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: ToniJo Patsy and Meron Hewis

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Opening Hymn No. 323 "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Eternal Father, we want you to love us; but we have not yet learned how to love each other, even those who are as close to us as our own families. We are quick to see another's faults, but we are insensitive to their feelings. We hear others speak, but we do not listen to the deeper meanings which underline their words. We pass by those who carry heavy burdens of worry we could share, and we pay no attention. We are deaf and blind, careless, and selfish. Forgive us Father, for our unnumbered sins; and teach us to love others in the true spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 108 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Scripture: Genesis 3: 8-13

Sermon: "World To World"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 260 "And Can It Be That I  
Should Gain?"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + +

\*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Dally placed the beautiful flowers on the altar in memory of Loved Ones.

Mrs. Lois Pennington will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be done by men of the congregation filling in for the Youth who are away.

Attendance last Sunday was 135 with 16 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today

Lloyd Link and Rick Vinroe will be visiting the hospital this week.

SUNDAY - NO Youth or Junior Youth

MONDAY through FRIDAY - 6:30 to 9 P.M. we will be having Vacation Bible School. We hope all of you will try to attend. Also for those who volunteered to bake cookies please make sure they are here. We are looking for another successful year. Also we need helpers in all areas. Please see LuAnn Janicki if you would like to volunteer your services.

Since the Congregational meeting on June 5th, funds are coming in for the replacement of the furnace. Last week we received \$900.00 toward this project. This is just a start of what the congregation can do when we all pull together for a most needed improvement. I will be sharing with you weekly the furnace funding we receive.

CHURCH PICNIC AND SERVICE will be held next week at the Rotary Shelter in Memorial Park. Please bring a table service and tureen. Meat, dessert and beverage will be provided. Also we are planning fun and games for all ages. A special "fun" fund raiser will be held and funds will go toward the Van. Come to the picnic and join in on all the fun and fellowship with your fellow members.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situation you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! ! ! !

World To World"  
 Scripture: Genesis 3:8-13  
 (Ilus Hitler & painting=In Th/Bgin was th/word)  
 Wat distortin G's Word  
 no 1 lik Hitler, cud evr cum clos 2B =Th/Word=wh/Js Xp  
 Hitler & his ilk wer of th/worl & not of G, so no cp shudB made  
 I' addr undrst this travesty B foist on us in society, nnd undrst  
 G's positi, plan 4- His creatin rt fr/Bgin  
 1 Jn 2:15-16  
 Jn talk bout 2sep worls & read Gen 1:1=In Th/Bgin G creat  
 Ther is th/worl; that wat G creat; it wat He made & it was very  
 gud/perf nuthin wrong w/it  
 but chang tuk plac wh/made worl not wat G want 2B  
 So Jn say=vs 16  
 He talk bout go fr/Worl 2 Worl  
 this may snd lik contradic, but it not  
 it merly wat hpn 2worl as opos 2wat G desir 4 it  
 World=Gr-Cosmos=depic univ in smallr/lgr sense  
 it th/worl system wh/suroun us evrday our livs  
 it not use as dwel plac but as that wh/shap our think, our Blief  
 our faith  
 Need go bak 2Bgin 2undrst; G creat evrth & it gud  
 sumtim prior 2this G creat angels & 1 rebel & cast dwn fr/hvn  
 He apear & did in Ad/Ev livs wat read in Scrip=partuk of fruit  
 Here is wher struggl Bgin  
 Evrone fr/Ad on dwn heirs 2sin, & sin natur & so cum in2 contac  
 w/worl of Satah  
 ea us liv our own littl worls or Cosmos & wen our Cosmos trigger  
 by Cosmos w/out=Satan then we involv in struggl  
 no one is exemp fr/it, we R ea fite battl of Worl 2 Worl  
 We yield 2lust of flesh/eyes we R in Satans worl  
 he is ruler this worl & hav optunt 2draw us fr/G 2his worl  
 & 1st thing anyl duz w/sin is 2find an excuse 4it  
 Peopl say: I cant help myself  
 I've always bin this way  
 I've tried to chang, but I cant  
 I'm bettr than a lot of peopl  
 It duznt hurt anyl duz it?  
 It's th/only pleasur I allow myself  
 Lk wat Ad did wen confr w/his sin-vs 12  
 He blam Ev, but actuly blam G  
 how many times herd suml tel us=, or we hav sed 2othrs same?  
 vs 13=Ev sed=Devil made me do it  
 (Ilus womn, nu dres & devil say luk gud Bhin also)  
 Satan, or devil get mor credit than deserv  
 Jn tel us=Grtr is He that is in U, than he that is in th/world

2/  
 lessn lern here is sin sumth mus deal w/in ea our livs  
 ther ient one of us who can claim imuntiy fr/it  
 fr/this Scrip can C results wh/cum fr/sin  
 they bin tol wud dy, but didnt transpir as we kno deth 2B  
 insted they dy othrwis  
 vs 7=they los ther self-esteem; perceiv selvs as B chang & nakdne  
 caus 4shame=sin bring out negtiv, destroy positiv  
 (Examl=I'm OK Ur OK philosphy=alcoholics, drug adicts, homos &  
 it siknes, diseas, not sin)  
 thez things covr w/fig leavs society 2day  
 vs 8=lost persnl relatship w/G; hid fr/Him insted repent, ask 4giv  
 1st felowship w/Him  
 vss 11-12=deth persnl responsbilty  
 It G's falt, Evs falt, seppents falt neithr tuk responsbilty  
 But G authr of luv & 4gav Ad/Ev, but they mus liv w/consequenc  
 (Ilus Xpian man & consequenc)  
 G duznt desrt us, He duznt; but we mus liv w/consequence of sin  
 2oft we ask=wher is G, or wher was G wen?  
 We want pruf  
 (Ilus girl & want sumone w/skin on)  
 Man has always sot sumone w/skin  
 (Ilus God leads a pretty sheltrd life)  
 G has serv sentenc we shud serv  
 but Js Xp tuk our place  
 He made it possibl 4us 2esap this worl 2B part of His worl  
 that can & shud B a realty 4ea us  
 U can hav renu relatship w/G thru Js Xp  
 G's desir 4 ea persn is that we mite go fr/World To World

(Ilus Hitler, painting & -In Th/Bgin was th/word)  
 1 Jn 2:15-16

World=Cosmos

Peopl say: I cant help myself  
 Ive always bin this way  
 Ive tried 2chang, but I cant  
 Im bettr than a lot of othr peop  
 It duznt hurt anyone duz it?  
 Its th/only pleasur I allow myself  
 (Ilus womn/dres & devil made me do it)

vs 7=Ad/Ev los self-esteem  
 sin destroy positiv & bring out negtiv  
 vs 8=hid fr/G  
 cus repent-seek 4giv, los persnl relatship  
 vss 11-12=deth persnl responsbilty  
 had 2liv w/consequences of sin  
 (Ilus man, drunk lose leg, liv w/consequences)  
 (Ilus girl & Want sumone w/skin)  
 (Ilus G lead pretty sheltrd life)



In the early days of Nazism

In the early days of Naziism, Hitler spoke to a group of his chosen men in a beer cellar in Munich. His speech was filled with hate and the faces of these men reflected the evil they would soon be about as they began to engage the world in war.

And artist portrayed that scene on canvas and captured the facial reactions of the groups as they listened to Hitler's fiery words. Hee entitled the painting: "In the Beginning Was the Word."

What a distortion of God's Word. No one like Adolph Hitler could ever come close to being "The Word," which of course in Scripture was and is Jesus Christ. Hitler and his ilk were of the world and not of God so there shouldn't even be a comparison made. But in order for us to understand this travesty which continues to be foisted upon our present society, we need to understand God's position and plan for His creation right from the very beginning. The Apostle John writing to the first century church recorded in what we call his first letter, in the 2nd chapter, verses 15 and 16 the following: (read these verses).

When John tells us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," he is not saying that we must hate the place in which we live. John is talking about two separate and distinct worlds here. Going back to the very beginning of recorded time we read, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

There, is the world. That is what God created; it is what He had made; and it was good, and perfect and there was nothing wrong with it. But there was a change which took place which made the world not what God wanted it to be. So then John can say with complete truth, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

John is talking about going from ~~xxxxxx~~ "World To World." Now that may sound like a contradiction, but it isn't. It is merely what happened to the world as opposed to what God desired for it.

The word "World" as John writes it, in Greek is "COSMOS." That word depicts the universe in a smaller or larger sense. John uses it as implying the world system which surrounds us everyday of our lives. It is not used strictly as a dwelling place, but rather, as that which shapes our thinking, our belief, our daily living. To understand this we need to go back to the beginning. As we have read in the book of Genesis God created everything and it was good. But somewhere along the line, an angel of God's tried to be like God and was cast out of heaven with his followers. This made him available to appear upon the scene somewhere on earth and he did exactly that in the lives of the two people God had placed in His perfect Garden called Eden. We all know the story how Eve was tempted by Satan and then when she partook of the fruit of the tree she gave some to Adam and he partook of it as well. Here then is the origin of sin. Now here is where the struggle begins. When sin was introduced into the world, everyone from Adam on down became an heir of that sin nature and we have sin within us waiting to be released. Each one of us lives in what may well be called, "Our own little world." That "world" encompasses this life which we are privileged to live. This is our "Cosmos," and when our "Cosmos," or "our world," is triggered by the

"Cosmos" without, then we are involved in the struggle. No one is exempt from it. We are each one fighting the battle of "World To World." When we yield to the lust of the eyes, or the lust of the flesh we are in Satan's world. Satan is the ruler of this world ~~only~~ and he has the opportunity to draw us from the world of God to his world. And the first thing that anyone does with sin is to find an excuse for it.

People say: "I can't help myself."

"I've always been this way."

"I've tried to change, but I can't."

"I'm better than a lot of other people."

"It doesn't hurt anyone does it?"

"It's the only pleasure I allow myself."

And the list goes on. Look at what Adam said when God confronted him with his sin. In the 12th verse of our Scripture for this morning Adam says, "The woman WHOM THOU gavest to be with me." "It was her that made me do it," he is saying, but furthermore, he is blaming God for his sin. He is saying, "If YOU hadn't given me this woman, I would not have sinned. So it's all your fault. How many times have we heard someone say that to us? Or have we said it to someone to cover our sin?"

So then God turns to Eve and asks, "What is this you have done?" "And the woman answered, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." verse 13.

In other words, "the devil made me do it."

(Illustration of woman buying dress and Satan talking to her about it)

A woman came home from a shopping trip and wanted to show off her new dress to her husband. She went into the bedroom and put it on. Then she called for her husband to come in to see her in it. He looked at the dress with price tags hanging all over it and said, "Why did you buy that, you know we can't afford it?" She said, "Well, it was such a pretty dress and I couldn't help it, ~~Satan~~ the devil made me do it." "Well," he says, "why didn't you say, 'Get thee behind me Satan?'" She said, "I did, and Satan said, 'HMMMMMMMMM ----- it looks good from back here too.'"

Satan, or the devil gets more credit than he deserves. Christ has a greater power than Satan and John tells us also in his first letter, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."

The lesson we learn here is that sin is something we must deal with in each of our lives. There isn't a one of us ~~who~~ who can claim immunity from it. From this Scripture we can see the results which come from sin. They had been told they would die, but they didn't ~~transpire~~ transpire as we know death to be. Instead, they died otherwise.

In the 7th verse, we read: (read this verse). Adam and Eve lost their self-esteem. They perceived themselves as being changed and they perceived this nakedness as a cause for shame. Sin destroys the positive and brings out the negative.

Then Adam and Eve sought to cover up the sin problem. They could have sought God and asked ~~for~~ in repentance to be forgiven. Instead, they covered themselves up. This is one of the big things society today tries to teach as good moral values. ~~It's~~ It's the "I'm OK, you're OK" theory which became ~~a~~ a popular book a few years back. It isn't sin today that people have, it's called a disease. Alcoholics, dope addicts, homosexuals, and others don't act out sin, they have a sickness, a weakness of character and these things are covered up, with the fig leaves of our scientific minds.

In the 8th verse we read, (read this verse). They hid from God. They knew what they had



done was wrong and they seemed to believe that God wouldn't be able to find them. What they lost, what also died for them was the personal relationship they had with the Creator of the Universe. They lost fellowship with Him.

In verses 11 & 12 we read, (read these verses). Here ~~xxxxxxx~~ was the death of personal responsibility. Adam saw it as God's fault, and Eve's fault; and Eve saw it as the serpent's fault. Neither of them were willing to take the responsibility for what they had done.

But God is the author of love and in the midst of this first flagrant turning from Him, He still forgave and provided for Adam and Eve. No longer were they in a personal one on one relationship with God, but God provided for them and took care of their needs. But Adam and Eve had to live with the consequences of their sin. And so must all mankind. Suppose in a hypothetical situation a man who is a leader in a church, a good Christian, and a family man, stops one night on the way home from work at a bar for a drink. He has more than he should and is drunk. He drives his car home weaving on the highway and instead of hitting the brake hits the gas pedal and ploughs into a tree. The car is totalled and he is in the hospital. His leg is badly smashed and the doctor's amputate it. He asks God for forgiveness, and God forgives him; he asks his family's forgiveness and they forgive him. But what about his leg, what about his life? Will God grow a new leg on him? No! He must live with the consequences of his sin for the rest of his life. This is what sin does to any and all of us. There are consequences for each and every sin that we commit. It doesn't mean that God deserts us, ~~xxxxxxx~~ He doesn't. But we must live with the consequences caused by our sins

Too often we ask, "Where is God, or where was God when this happened to someone we know?"

And we are somewhat like the little girl who wanted positive proof.

(Illustration of little girl and lightning, and, "I want someone with skin on")

A little girl was in her bedroom and everyone else was in bed also. A thunderstorm had come up and the girl was awakened by the noise. Then she saw the flashes of lightning and she called out, "Daddy, I'm scared." Her dad awoke and said, "You don't have to be afraid, God is with you. God loves you." This silenced the girl for a little while,.... but then the voice is heard again and she says, "I don't care about God, Daddy; I want someone with skin."

Man has always sought someone with skin.

(Illustration of "Go leads a pretty sheltered life")

God has served the sentence we should serve, but Jesus Christ took our place. He has made it possible for us to escape this world to be a part of His world. That can and should be a reality for each of us. You can know the renewed relationship we can have with God through Christ. God's desire for each person is that we might go from "World To World."

"CHURCH IN THE PARK"

June 26, 1988

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Ascription

\*Opening Hymn No. 14 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

\*Call to Worship:

Pastor - Praise ye the Lord! Praise O ye servants  
of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

People - Blessed be the name of the Lord from this  
time forth and for evermore.

All - From the rising of the sun unto the going  
down of the same, the Lord's name is to be  
praised.

\*Invocation

Hymn No. 16 "An Evening Prayer"

Morning Prayers

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology

Anthem: "The Chapel By The Road"

Scripture: Genesis 3: 14-24

Sermon: "The Third Dimension"

Prayer

Closing Hymn No. 25 "Are Ye Able Said the Master"

Benediction

Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, Dick Dally, Don  
Kingsley and George Pflugh.

Attendance last Sunday was 91 with 11 visitors.

Art Snyder and Howard Jaillet will be visiting the  
hospital this week. *OUT*

> Hospitalized: Marge Smiley and Jim Bell in BMH.  
Mrs. Isabel Hockenberry in Montefiore Hosp.  
in Pittsburgh

> Immediately following the service today we will all join  
in the church family picnic. Those of you who have  
tureens, please bring them to the buffet table. The  
Lay, Life and Work Committee will assist you. We hope  
you will also join in the fun and games we have planned  
for you, adults as well as all children.

> We wish to extend a thank you to all of you who partici-  
pated in VBS this past week. We had a successful  
program because of all of you. Also a thanks to LuAnn  
Janicki for directing VBS this year.

> HELP NEEDED! You are invited to join with over one  
hundred persons who have been fighting a battle of  
decency for you and yours for the past 9 weeks. Please  
phone 285-5125 for a weekly recorded message on how you  
too can help. *RESULT OF FRI MEETING*

After the service today please be sure to turn your hymn  
booklet into one of the Ushers.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 28th - VBS follow up meeting at 7:00 P.M. We need  
all final reports and material turned in.

July 6th - Church Council at 7:00 P.M.

July 12th - Sunday School Teachers meeting at 7:00 P.M.

July 19th - Finance Committee at 7:00 P.M.

> Last weeks receipts in the Improvement Fund for the  
furnace was good. Nothing come designated for such, but  
the increase amount from those giving to the Improve-  
ment Fund totalled \$180.00



"The Third Dimension"

Scripture: Genesis 3:14-24  
(Ijus littl boy in SS & questin bout marag)  
In sum instances that mayB Gospl truth  
but quit evident littl felo no C marag in rt Dimension  
that Tu of nothr dimensin mos peo also no undrst  
Su in 9th centry BC-983-931 ther drastic chang in trib Israel  
kingdm las 120 yrs-Rehoboam succed fathr Sol on thron Judah  
ldr name-Jerboam,(no relatin Rehoboam)cal bak fr/exile Egypt by  
10 tribes selec as ther ldr  
Ask Reho undo hardship Sol impos,but he refus & 10 tribes pull  
out & Bcum N kingdm  
Reho tak trib Judah & wat lef Ben & Bcum S kingdm  
Thus cam bout dimesnsin G nevr intend tak place  
In Bgin wen G sep part natin Is as His peo,it Jacob 12sons who  
had respons of B ldrs of 12 tribes  
this split thez many yrs latr not acord 2-G's plan 4His peo  
this was continuatin of 1st Dimension as had Bgun aftr creatin  
Sath had entr worl & caus man 2 Bcum a falln part G's creatin  
in Gen 3 we C how Sath had establish his kingdm on erth & this  
was 1st Dimensin  
Scrip clearly pts out G redly acknowledg erth as Sath domain  
erth govrn by systm sin/godlesnes & this 1st Dimensin  
Now orig plan of G thward & now wat wud He do?  
Ther only one solutin & that 2sumhow rescu man fr/clutchs of  
Satns kingdm  
this ment need 2eend sumone agin Sath 2defeat him or 2pit evry  
indivd persn agin Sath & let them eithr win/lose battl  
But G knu man is finite,he human whil Sath outsid of flesh & is  
spirit  
Battl musB fot w/spirit agin spirit  
So G cam in persn of humn being 2wage battl agin Satns kingdm  
If Gen read this prom 4 1st time-3:15  
This 1st prom of Messiah,One who wud tak place all othrs 2defeat  
kingdm of Sath - (explain this verse)  
Here is Bgin of Xp's kingdom-this anounc of how G wud deal w/Sath  
Now Sath kno that any ritus seed of womn may welB this Messiah  
So he mus do battl w/all of mank in ord 2maintain his kingdm  
thru all OT th/Messiah seed is trac fr/Adam 2 Noah,2 Abe, 2 Is  
2 Jacob, 2 Dav & ultimaty 2 Xp  
Sath duz all can 2defeat any & all seed of womn thruout histr  
He turn man agin man & divids chozn peo of G  
He duz all sorts of things 2defeat G's plan but it was th/cross  
wh ultimaty brot bout Satns defeat  
it 1st apear he had won Bcuz this Messiah was ded & indeed 4  
3days Sath had th/victory  
But powr of G demonstrat in mitey way by resurectin Js Xp fr/grav  
Sath stil continu 2wrestl/fite 2control hisk kingdm,but he bin  
defeat & it now Xp's kingdm wh/prevails & this is 2nd Dimensin

2/  
Sath ataks thoz who now Blong 2-G & th battl we fac is 2preserv  
& pas on th/mesag of th/Messiah 2 th/world  
all th/whil Sath is fite 2diminsh that mesag & keep evrone he  
can fr/cum 2 Messiah  
thus apear kingdm of Sath mite yet win out Bcuz he no completly  
up & bin defeat - he stil wages th/batl  
& thus miteB so if it wer no 4 th/3rd Dimensin  
Th 3rd Dimensin is wat can cal=THEOCRATIC kingdm,or Kingdm of G  
G intrven in affairs of man 2-establish this kingdm & rescu His  
creatin fr/kingdm of Sath  
in 3rd chap Gen C how G confront-Ad,Ev,Sath w/ther sin  
He cal Ad/Ev & let them kno that evn in ther sin He luvs them  
In vs 15,he tel Sath of his ult dwnfal & defeat  
vas 16-19=G tel Ad/Ev wat consequenc of ther sins R  
We C that in evrth ther R always consequenc ~~xxxxxx~~  
(Ex=Xpian,drink,lose leg,4givn,mus mus bear consequenc 4lif)  
G ~~xxx~~ duznt gro nu leg on man,he mus liv w/consequenc  
this exacly wat G did w/Ad,Ev & whol race aftr them  
it then G restor Ad/Ev as read in vs 21  
G 4thr protec them & grant safty fr 4thr sin=vs 22-24  
if they had partakn this tree,lik Sath they wud hav bin lok  
etrnaly in 2 sin & G wud hav had destroy them lik wil Sath  
but w/plan G had,His kingdm,th/3rd Dimensin mad it posib 4-G  
2bring man bak 2-Himself  
Satns kingdm has bin confr by Xp's kingdm,& it is G's kingdm  
wh/has asur th/final vctry  
but it taks ea individ involv in lif 2 claim that vctry thru  
Js Xp  
(Ilus Billy want 2B - Possible)  
That shudB th/goal of ea us regardles wat stage lif we in  
Yng,old,mid-age,watevr-we shud desir 2B posiblin lif G givs us  
(17) Lasse Viren Munich Olymps & win 10,000 metr race)  
As w/ face race of lif we R involv in,ther R many times wen we R  
thrown 2 th/grnd & race seems 2B hoples  
But th/victory is asur  
Satns kingdm has bin defeat  
We can claim that vctry thru Js Xp

(Ilus boy & marag-\$giv them 4they kno not wat  
they do)

Rehoboam - Jeroboam - 983-933  
kingdm las 120 yrs

1st Dimensin- Satns kingdm

2nd Dimensin - Xp's kingdm

3rd Dimensin - Theocratic kingdm=G's kingdm

(Xpian man,drink,lose leg=consequenc of sin)

(Ilus Billy & want 2B possible)

(Ilus Lasse Viren,Munich Olymps-10,M race)

"The Third Dimension"

Scripture: Genesis 3:14-24

(Illustration of little boy in class and question about marriage)

In a Sunday School class the teacher was talking about marriage. She asked the question, "What did Jesus say about people getting married?" One little boy raised his hand and said, "Jesus said, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

In some instances that may be the Gospel truth. But it is quite evident the little fellow wasn't seeing marriage in the proper dimension. This is true of another dimension that most people also don't understand.

Some time in the 9th century before Christ, between 983 and 931 there was a drastic change in the tribes of Israel. The kingdom had lasted 120 years. Rehoboam ascended to the throne succeeding his father Solomon in the year 933. A leader named Jeroboam no relation of Rehoboam came out of exile in Egypt where he had been in seclusion, and ten of the tribes selected him as their leader. He came to Rehoboam and requested that he undo the hardships which Solomon had imposed on these people. Rehoboam consulted with the old men of Judah and they told him to listen to the people and make adjustments. Rehoboam then asked advice of the young men and they told him to tell these people that if they thought Solomon was bad, they hadn't seen anything yet. So Jeroboam and the people of the ten tribes pulled out of Israel and became what was known as the "Northern Kingdom," while Rehoboam was king of the tribe of Judah and what was left of the tribe of Benjamin. Thus came about a dimension which God never intended to take place.

In the beginning when God set apart the nation of Israel as His people, it was Jacob's twelve sons who had the responsibility of being the leaders of the twelve tribes. This split these many years later ~~was~~ was not according to God's plan for His people.

This ~~ix~~ was a continuation of the First Deimension as it began shortly after creation. Satan had entered the world and caused man to become a fallen part of God's creation. We see in the third chapter of Genesis that Satan had now established his kingdom on earth and this was the first ~~axaxix~~ dimension. Scripture clearly points out that God readily acknowledged ~~Satan~~ the earth as Satan's domain. The earth is governed by a system of sin and godlessness. This is the first dimension.

Now the original plan that God had was thwarted. Now what would He do? There was only one solution and that was to rescue man somehow from the clutches of Satan's kingdom. This meant that He needed to send someone against Satan to defeat him, or to pit every individual person against Satan and let them either win or lose the battle. But God knew that man is finite, he is human, while Satan is outside of the flesh and is spirit. The battle must be fought with spirit against spirit. So God Himself came in the person of a human being to wage that battle against Satan's kingdom. It is in Genesis where we read of this promise for the first time. In this 3rd chapter, the 15th verse God gives the first promise of a Messiah. One who would take the place of all others to defeat the kingdom of Satan.

(Read and explain this verse). Here is the beginning of Christ's kingdom. This is the announcement of how God would deal with Satan. Now Satan knows that any ~~xxxxxx~~ righteous seed of a woman may well be this Messiah. So he must do battle with all of mankind in

OPEN



To maintain his kingdom. Through the Old Testament the Messiah seed is traced from Adam to Noah, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to David, and ultimately to Christ. Satan does all that he can to defeat any and all seed of woman throughout this history. He turns man against man, and divides the chosen people of God. He does all sorts of things to defeat God's plan. But it was the cross which ultimately brought about Satan's defeat. It appeared that he had won because this Messiah was dead. For three days Satan had the victory. But the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ power of God was demonstrated in a mighty way by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. Satan still continues to wrestle and fight to control his kingdom, but he has been defeated and it is now Christ's kingdom that prevails and this is the second dimension. Satan attacks those who now belong to God and the battle we face is to preserve ~~xxx~~ and pass on the message of the Messiah to the world. All the while Satan is fighting to diminish that message and keep everyone he can from coming to the Messiah. Thus it appears that the kingdom of Satan might yet win out because he has not given up and been completely defeated. He still wages the battle. And this might be so were it not for "The Third Dimension." The Third Dimension is what we can call the "Theocratic Kingdom," or, the Kingdom of God. God intervened into the affairs of man to establish this Kingdom and rescue His creation from the kingdom of Satan. We see in the 3rd chapter of Genesis how God confronts Adam, Eve, and Satan with their sin. He calls Adam and Eve and lets them know that even in their sin He loves them. He confronts Satan and tells him of his ultimate downfall in verse 15. In verses 16 through 19 he tells Adam and Eve what the consequences of their sin are. We can see in this that there are always consequences for everything. (Example of ~~xxx~~ man who is Christian, drinking, losing leg, forgiven, but living with it) God doesn't grow a new leg on the man, that man must live with the consequences of his sin. And this is exactly what God did with Adam and Eve and the whole race after ~~xx~~ them. It was then that God restored Adam and Eve and we read in the 21st verse, (read this). God further protected them and granted them safety from further sin, (read verses 22-24). If they had partaken of the other tree, they, like Satan would have been locked eternally into sin and God would have had to destroy them. But with the plan that God had, His kingdom, the Third Dimension made it possible for God to bring man back to Himself. Satan's kingdom has been confronted by Christ's kingdom and it is God's kingdom which has assured the final victory. But it takes each individual involved in life to claim that victory through Jesus Christ.

(Illustration Billy wanting to be "Possible")

The teacher asked her class what each wanted to become when they grew up. "President," "A fireman," "A policeman," "A teacher." One by one they answered until it became Billy's time. The teacher asked, "Billy, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Immediately Billy answered, "Possible." "Possible?" asked the teacher. "Yes, possible," Billy said, "My mother is always telling me I'm impossible and when I grow up I want to be possible."

That should be the goal of each of us regardless of what stage in life we are. Young or old, mid-life, or whatever. We should desire to be "possible" in the life God has given to us.

(Illustration of Lasse Viren in Munich Olympics winning 10,000 meter race)

As we face the race of life we are involved in there are many times when we are thrown to the ground and the race seems to be hopeless. But the victory is assured. Satan's kingdom has been defeated. We can claim that victory through Christ.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor July 3, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Opening Hymn No. 338 "We Sing the Greatness of our God"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) O God, our Father, you know that we all face the temptations of life. You know that many times we are turned on by the world and turned off by religion and the Church. You know that we do not want to discipline ourselves to a love that demands obedience. But you also know that since we are human, we can only resolve our problems and our difficulties through you. Help us in our weakness to become strong, and in the midst of our sins to find forgiveness. "Hear us now, and let us hear your whispered "Go and sin no more." Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 400 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Scripture: Genesis 4: 1-15

Sermon: "Self-Styled"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 409 "Who Is on the Lord's Side?"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + +

\*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Genevieve Nohach and her daughter Beverly have placed the flowers on the altar in memory of Loved Ones. Mr. & Mrs. Howdy Bolam will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers serving today are Marty Henry, Frank Crawford, Jeff Snyder and John Snow.

Attendance at the Picnic last Sunday was about 75.

Nursery will be provided today by Lori Weisenstein and Wendy Snyder.

Ken Draxinger and Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital this week.

DATES TO REMEMBER: July 4th - Have a safe holiday!  
July 6th - Council meeting at 7:00  
July 12th - Sunday School teachers meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
July 19th - Finance committee will meet at 7:00 P.M.

>The funding for the furnace is still coming in. In last weeks offering we had \$100 designated for the furnace and an increase in Improvement Fund envelopes of \$37. The continued interest in the improvements of the church can only be done with your support, so we hope you will try to help with them.

>HELP NEEDED!!! You are invited to join with over one hundred persons who have been fighting a battle of decency for you and yours for the past 10 weeks. Please phone 285-5125 for a weekly recorded message on how you too can help.

>HOSPITALIZED: Mrs. Helen Quineaux and Marge Smiley in BMH.  
ANNA ZURIK - Host  
SYMPATHY TO HOCKENBERRY FAMILY

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - SEPTEMBER 11, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

\*HYMN  
RESPONSIVE ~~XXXXXXXX~~ SCRIPTURE  
SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN  
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 4:1-15  
Sermon; ~~XXXXX~~ "SELF-STYLED" ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 7/3/88  
\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

TROUBLED MARINES  
FAMA & HER SERVICE  
FAMILIES OF CRASH VICTIMS  
UNFOLKEN - MATILDA  
" JOAN  
PECK - PEG  
HUTCHINSON FAMILY

SCRIPT: GEN 4:1-15; SERM: "SELF-STYLED"

(ILUS WRITER, OLD FRIEND, & WAT DID U THINK OF MY LAS BUK?)

CAASIC EXAMP SELF-CENTEREDNES

WE MAYNOT B LIK THAT,BUT SUMONE MADE LIST RATIONLIZATINS WE USE

(ILUS THEZ RATIONALIZATIONS)

LYT CUD GO ON & ON & PT IS WE C OTHRS THRU DIF EYES & FR/DIF P. PECTIV

INVOLV IN THIS IS "SELF" - "S - E - L - F"

ME GENERATION & RESULTS OF THIS TODAY

CADILLAC COMMERCIAL & • YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF 2HAV A CAR LIK (ILUS OF THE IMAGE IDOLING 80's) THI:

THIS ALL START IN BGIN OF TIME

ADAM & EVE SINND,TURNED FROM GOD

GOD GAV FROM CHILD WUDB BORN 2DEFEAT SIN-DAMAGED WORLD

4SATAN,BCAM NECESARY FROM NEVR FULFILLD

SINC SATAN NO KNO WHO SEED OF WOMN WUDB PROMISD ONE, EVERY SEED OF WOMAN WAS SUSPECT & HAD 2B ATTACKED

FIRST EXAMPL IS TWO BROCS - CAIN & ABEL

ONE SHEPHERD, OTHER A FARMER

BOTH CAM 2 WROSHIP GOD,& BOTH BROT AN OFFERING

VSS 3-5A-DIF IN OFFRS NO PT OUT,OTHR THAN ANIMALS & CROPS

THER THOZ WLAIN ABEL'S WAS ACPT BCUZ 2OFFR ANIMALS THEY HAD 2B SLAIN THUS SHED BLUD

& SCRIP PT OUT=WITHOUT SHED OF BLUD THER NO REMISSION

THIS TRUE,BUT THER NO MENTION OF THIS HERE THAT THEZ OFFRS WER 4 TH/4GIVNES OF SINS

WE R TOL THEZ OFFRS WER 2WORSHIP GOD

2STAT ABEL'S OFFR WAS ACPT BCUZ ANIMALS,& CAIN'S NOT ACPT

BCUZ IT NO CONTAIN ANIMALS IS 2MISS TH/PT COMPLETELY

CAIN RAISED CROPS

ABEL RAISED SHEEP

T FOR IT IS A FACT THAT GOD WAS NOT ASKING/DEMANDING WAT CAIN CUD NOT GIV

G NEVR DUZ THAT • HE ONLY ASKS US 2GIV WAT WE HAV

LETS LK THIS PASAG IN VSS 3 & 4

DO U C TH/DIF?? ABEL GAV OF 1STLINGS,DUZNT SAY SAM FOR CAIN

REASN PERHAPS G BLES ABEL=HE GAV OF 1ST,& CAIN MAY HAV GIV 2nd,3rd best,not 1st best

EVIDENT CAIN WANT 2LIV SELF-STYLED LIFE - DO IT HIS WAY

VSS 3=WAT HE BROT, GOD WUD HAV TO ACPT

VS 5=cain gets angry wen offr not acpt by god

VSS 6-7=G QUEST ANGER & EXPLAINS END RESULT OF IT

VS 8=CAIN'S RESPONSE?? HE KILLS HIS BORTHER

PERHAPS CAIN THOT G WUD ACPT HIM BCUZ HE NOW NUMBER ONE

VSS 9-10=G DUZNT ACPT OUR SELF-STYLED MOTIVS OR REASONS

G WANTS G-STYLED PEOPLE INSTED

EXAMPL OF JS & SELF-STYLED THINKING

MATTHEW 20:20 ff

MATTHEW 20:23-23

TWO OF JS DISCIPS THOT SELVS WORTHY B SEATED HIS RT & LEFT  
VS 24=OTHS HERD IT & BCAM ANGRY 2THINK THEZ 2HOTHEDS CONSIDR  
SELVS 2B TH/CHOSN ONES AMONG THEM  
THIS IS CAIN & ABEL ALL OVER AGAIN  
WHO KNOWS AT WUD HAV HAPPEND IF JS HAD WALKED AWAY FR/DISCIPS  
FR BLOWN BLUDSHED PERHAPS  
VS 25-28=JS EXPLAINS WAT A TRUE FOLLOWER IS  
(ILUS OF WOMAN FIRST CLASS AIRFARE & NO SPK 2SERVANTS)  
CAN U IMAGIN WAT THAT STEWARDESS/FLIGHT ATTENDENT MUS HAV FELT??  
WE ALL SERVANTS AT ONE PT OR OTHER  
EVEN SNOB WOMAN IS SERVANT WEN SHE SERVS TEA 2HER SNOB FREINDS  
(ILUS AIRLINE EXECUTIVE TALKING ABOUT BEING SERVANTS)  
JS IS TELLING HIS DISCIPS THEY R 2B SERVANTS LIK HIMSELF  
LK WAT HE SEZ ABOUT HIMSELF - VS 28  
TH/ULTIMATE IN SERVANTHOD  
(ILUS DR. KORNFIELD, & ALEXANDER SOLZENITSYN)  
THIS DR, ALTHO NO BCUM XPIAN, ADOPT XPIAN PRINCIPLES & COST LIFE  
TH/LESSON CAIN/ABEL ALWAYS WITH US  
WE HAV CHANC 2B SELF-STYLED & LIKE TH/REST OF TH/WORLD  
OR, WE CAN SELF-STYLE OURSELVS IN TH/IMAG OF XP  
WHICH SELF STYLING WIL WE CHOOZ?

(Ilus writer & "Lets talk bout U, Wat did U think my last buk?)

WEN TH OTHER FELO ACTS THAT WAY, HE IS UGLY: WEN U DO ITS NERVS  
WEN OTHS R SET IN THER WAYS, THEYR OBSTINAT: WEN U DO ITS FIRMNES  
WEN UR NEIGHR DZNT LIK UR FREIND, HE'S PREJUDICD: WEN U DONT LIK  
HIS U R A GUD JUDG OF HUMN NATUR  
WEN HE TRYD 2TREAT SUM1 ESPECILY WEL, HE'S TOADYING: WEN U TRY IT  
U BEING THOTFUL  
WEN HE TAKS TIME 2DO THINGS WEL, HE'S A SLOWPOK: WEN U DO U R DELIB  
RAT & CAREFUL  
WEN HE SPENDS A LOT HE'S A SPENDTHRIFT: WEN U DO YOU'RE GENRUS  
WEN SUMONE PIKS A FLWW IN THINGS, HE'S CRANKY & CRITICL: WEN U DO  
UR CREATIV  
WEN HE IS MILD MANNRD U CAL HIM WEAK: WEN U R ITS GRACIUSNES  
WEN SUMONE DRESSES ESPECILY WEL, THAT PERSN IS EXTRAVAGANT: WEN U DO  
IT IS TASTFULNES  
WEN HE SAYS WAT HE THINKS IT IS SPITFULNES: WEN U DO, U R BEING  
FRANK  
WEN HE TAKS GRT RISKS IN BUSNES, HE'S FOOLHARDY: WEN U DO U R A  
WISE BUSNESMAN.

ME GENERATIN-since 60's

ILUS' BUK = LOOKING OUT FOR #1  
WIFE DIVERSE = I READ BUK.

Exampels of Cain & Abel & offrings - vs 2 thru 8

Js & discips - Mt 20:20-28

(Ilus woman no spk 2 servants)

(Ilus airline exec & need 4 service)

Mt. 22:37-40

1st-turn ovr 2 God

2nd-tak self & giv it 2 needs of othrs

(Ilus Russian doctor & Alex Solzhennitzen)



# "Self-Styled"

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-15

(Ilus of self-centrdnes-author talk bout self)

Ther is a classic exampl of self-centrdnes

we may not B quit lik that, but suml compil list of ratinlizatins wh/may depic us at one tim or othr

(Ilus of wen othr fello acts, & then wen act)

sur list cud go on & on, but pt is we C othrs thru dif eyes & fr/dif perspectiv

involv in this is SELF

(Ilus wif of authro divorc him aftr rad buk=Lk out 4 #1)

Sinc 1960's we bin involv in ME genratin & it has bin tim of increasing taking care of SELF

(exampl of Pgh comerecil bout Cadillac=U OWE IT TO YURSELF)

How many times hav U herd that expresin?

w/this self-centr atitud no wondr encountr actins/atituds wh/R expres in our society 2day

This all star bak in Bgin of tim we Ad/Ev sin & turn fr/G It then G gav prom child wudB born 2defeat sin-damag systm in wh/they liv

4 Satn it Beam necessary 2mak sur this prom no fulfil & sinc Satn no kno who seed wudB, evry seed was suspec & need 2B atakd Our exampl fr/Scrip pts warfar out very clearly

it involv 2bros

1 was shep, othr was farmr; both eam 2worsh G, both brot offering dif in offr no clearly spel out, othr than involv animls & crops

vss 3-5A-ther thoz claim Abel offr acceptbl Bcuz it animl & requir shed of blud=Scrip say w/out shed blud ther no remis 4sin this tru, but no mentin made here, thez offrs 2seek 4givnes

Th/offrs wer made 2 simply worship G & 2 stat Abels acceptbl Bcuz consis of animls is 2 mis pt

Cain raisd crops, Abel raisd sheep

her 4-G no deman Cain bring that wh/cudnt giv, G nevr expec this of anyone 2giv wat dont hav

He duz expec us 2giv that wh/we do hav

pt oft ovrluk this pasag is that Abel brot-(vs 4A)=1stlings ment Abel giv of bes he had-simlar 2 1stborn-not 2nd, 3rd-first

It says of Cain-(vs 3)=jus say of crops & no mentin whether it was th/first crops, or th/best

I Bliev Cain only brot crops & it was jus wat he grab & not 1st & best

We C in this that Cain determ 2liv a Self-Styled lif

G wud hav 2accept him on his terms-he wud cal th/shots & so we C in this Scrip, th/gistry thez events

vs 3=we C self-detr 4 Cain=wat he brot G wud hav 2 accept & that was it

it is then wen his offr not acceptbl he get angry-vs 5

vs 6=G questinthis & regardles wat G say, he stil angry

vs 7=x 7=G expl cud rectify mistak & his offr wudB acceptbl

vs 9=But Cain angry & kil brot-his hatrd mus hav bin so strong he thot only way 2B acceptbl 2-G was 2elimnat bors

2/

His reasn all wrong Bcuz G nevr accepts our selfish motive as th basis of His accept of us

G simpl wil not accept a Self-Styled person

Wat He duz accept is a -God Styled person; a persn who strivs 2 liv accord 2-G's ordr of things

Who was th promis seed spokn of in 3rd chap Gen encountr this Self-Styled thinking & He delt w/it as it shudB delt with

Exampl fnd chap 20-Mt-2discips thot shud hav specil plac kingdm James/Jn prevail on mothr 2talk Js bout this-vss 20-23

At this pt othrs Bcam angry w/merv thez 2hotheds

& so it shades of Cain all over agin & who kno wat outcum wud hav bin if Js wud hav walk way & excus self fr/ther midst

it gud possibilty ther wud hav bin fulblown powr struggl tak plac Vss 25-28=Js expl 2B in kingdm persn musB wil stoop Bneath dignit & Bcum serv

(Ilus woman airplane & nevr talks to servants)

Dud U imagin how stew mus hav felt? No one likes 2B cal serv, but that wat flite atts R & irony-(Ilus executiv spk servs role)

Evn that snobish woman is serv at one tim or othr-(teas serv) Js say follwrs musB servs, & musdo servic

Ultimat wat Js xxy tel discip-Chap 22-Mt

This shudB 4ea us sumth mark Bibls, put on card keep in site Lawr cum 2 Js & ask bout grtes Comman & Js ansr is 2fold

1st vss 37-38-He says tuen evrth ovr 2-G & means all hav-selvs, abiltys, welth, etc.

turn it ovr 2-G & ask Him 2sho us wat 2do w/pur livs He givus if evrone wud do-I guarantee wud C much/much mor comit of Ch membs than evr hav & realy C Ch gro as shud

Also guarantee if we all did, G wudnt tak all we hav, Bcuz He duznt expec this

At 2oft we want 2giv only so much & hold bak 4ourselvs

Wil & duz sho us wat He want us 2use & giv 2 Him & we wud find we had mor than we ever had B4=Bcuz we absolutly canot outgiv God

2nd Js seda Vss 39-40=G asks us 2tak self & giv it 2needs of othrs How many U pray 4 this pas wk: how many visit; How many spok sp needs: how many U dun anyth 4 this pas wk?

Contras this w/wat U hav dun 4 Urself

If we luv neigrs, (& that no mean nex door, acros st) we giv of ourselvs 2them-we Bcum th/servs G wants us 2B

(Ilus Russian Doctor & Alex Solzhenitzen)

This Dr altho no Bcum Xpian, willingly adp Xpian principls evn the kno mite cost his life

But Bcuz gav up self-intrest, nothr man accept Xp & bin sbl 2shar that faith w/th/world

lessn of Cain/Abel alway w/us & we hav chanc 2-Self-Style our selvs in th/imag of Js Xp, or in th/imag of th/world

which Self-Styling wil U chooz?

## "Self-Styled"

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-15

### (Illustration of self-centeredness)

A writer met an old friend and they talked for two hours, after which the writer said, "Now we've talked about me long enough - let's talk about you! What did you think of my last book?"

There is a classic example of self-centeredness. We may not be quite like that, but someone has compiled a list of ~~xxxxxxx~~ rationalizations which may depict us at one time or another.

### (Illustration of when the other fellow acts)

When the other fellow acts that way he is ugly; when you do it's nerves.

When others are set in their ways, they're obstinate; when you are it's firmness.

When your neighbor doesn't like your friend, he's prejudiced; when you don't like his you are a good judge of human nature.

When he tried to treat someone especially well, he's toadying; when you try it you are being thoughtful.

When he takes time to do things well, he's a slowpoke, or lazy; when you do, you are deliberate and careful.

When he spends a lot, he's a spendthrift; when you do you're generous.

When someone picks a flaw in things, he's cranky and critical; when you do you're creative.

When he is mild-mannered you call him weak; when you are, it's graciousness.

When someone dresses especially well, that person is extravagant; when you do, it is tastefulness.

When he says what he thinks it is spitefulness; when you do, you are being frank.

When he takes great risks in business, he's foolhardy; when you do, you are a wise financier.

And I'm sure the list could go on and on. But the point is that we see others through different eyes and from a different perspective. Involved in this is SELF. A book was written entitled, "Looking Our For Number One, and shortly after the book was published, the author's wife divorced him and received thousands of dollars in alimony. When asked about this she is reported to have said, "I read the book."

Since the 1960's we have been involved in the "ME" generation. It has been an increasing time of taking care of "self." Just this past week I have heard a commercial for a Cadillac dealer in Pittsburgh and the announcer has said, "You owe it to yourself to have a car like this." How many times have you heard that expression, "You owe it to yourself?" With this self-centered attitude it is no wonder that we encounter the actions and attitudes expressed in our society today. This all started back in the beginning of time. Adam and Eve turned from God and sinned. It was then that God gave them a promise that a child would be born to defeat the sin-damaged system in which they lived. For Satan, it became necessary to ~~make~~ make sure the promise was never fulfilled. Since Satan didn't know who that seed would be, every seed of woman was suspect and needed to be attacked. The example from Scripture points this warfare out very clearly. It involves two brothers. One we are told was a shepherd. The other was a farmer. They both came to worship God and they both brought an offering. We read, (read verses 3 through 5A). The difference in the offerings is not clearly spelled out other than the one involved animals and the other crops of the ground. There are those who claim that Abel's offering was acceptable because it was animals and in order to offer them the animals had to be slain, thus shedding their blood and Scripture points out elsewhere, "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."



This is all true. But there is no mention made that these offerings were to seek forgiveness. The offerings were made to simply worship God. To state that Abel's offering was acceptable because it consisted of animals, while Cain's was unacceptable because it didn't contain animals is to miss the point. Cain raised crops, Abel raised sheep. Therefore, it is a fact that God was not demanding of Cain that which he could not give. God never expects us to give to Him what which we do not have. He does expect of us to give that which we do have. The point perhaps that is so often overlooked in this passage is that Abel brought of, (look at verse 4), "of the firstlings of his flock." That meant Abel gave of the best that he had. It was the "Firstling" or the first-born. It wasn't second best, or third best, it was that which was first. And in what Cain brought it merely says, "Cain brought of the fruit of the ground." There is no mention made of whether it was the first-fruit, or it was the very best he could bring. I believe that Cain merely brought some of the crops, but not the first and best.

We see in this that Cain was determined to live a "Self-styled" life. God would have to accept him on his terms. He would call the shots. And so we see in this passage of Scripture the history of these events.

First we see in verse 3, that it must have been self-determination for Cain. What he brought God would have to accept, because this was it.

It is then when his offering is not acceptable that Cain gets angry, (verse 5).

God questions this, (verse 6), and regardless of what God said, Cain is still angry, (verse 6B).

So God explains that if Cain brings his offering with perhaps a different attitude and a different motivation behind it, (verse 8), then his offering would be acceptable as well. But Cain's anger against his brother was so strong that when he met him in the field, he killed him. What triggered his anger was the hatred he must have felt because Abel's offering was pleasing to God. All of this caused Cain to dispose of Abel making it possible for himself to become number one in God's sight. His reasoning was entirely wrong because God does not accept our selfish motives as the basis for His acceptance of us. God simply will not accept a self-styled person. What God does accept is a "God-styled" person; a person who strives to live according to God's order of things,

Jesus, who was the promised Seed spoken of in the 3rd chapter of Genesis encountered this self-styled thinking and He dealt with it as it should be dealt with. One example of this is found in the 20th chapter of Matthew. Two of Jesus' disciples believed that they should both have a special place in God's kingdom. James and John must have prevailed upon their mother to promote them to Jesus for these roles. So it is we read, (read verses 20-23). It was at this point that the others became angry with the nerve of these two hotheads. And it is shades of Cain all over again. Who knows what the outcome would have been if Jesus would have excused Himself from their midst. It is a good possibility that there would have been a full blown power struggle taking place. But Jesus explained that in order for anyone to have a place in the kingdom, the person involved had to be a servant type. That meant, willing to stoop beneath their dignity and be involved in serving, (25-28).

(Illustration of woman in first-class section on plane refusing to speak to stewardess)

A man and his wife were flying in the first-class section on a plane. The stewardess asked the woman if she wanted a pillow to be more comfortable. The woman ignored the repeated requests of the stewardess until her husband leaned over to the stewardess and said, in a voice that could be heard by all of the first-class passengers, "My wife does not speak to servants."

Can you imagine how that stewardess must have felt? No one likes to be called a "servant." But that is exactly what ~~xxxxxxstewardessxxxx~~ a stewardess is. Nowadays they ~~xxx~~ like to call them "flight attendants." But their job is still one of serving. And even that woman who refused to talk to "servants" is a servant herself if she serves tea to some of her snobbish friends and passes the cream and sugar to them.

(Illustration of airline executive telling of the need for service)

It is rather ironic that I read of an airline executive who was being interviewed a few years ago and he said that the real need for their industry was service. He said, "Service is the only thing we have to sell, but it is the toughest to teach. Nowadays, no one wants to be thought of a servant."

But this is exactly what Jesus said His followers must be and what they must do. The ultimate for life is what Jesus told His disciples which is what we read in the 22nd chapter of Matthew's Gospel. This should be for each of us, something that we have earmarked in our Bibles and even have printed on a card where we can look at it everyday and seek to live it. There in the 22nd chapter a lawyer came to Jesus and asked Him ~~what~~ the greatest commandment was. Jesus' response is twofold. First, He says, (Read verses 37 & 38). He says, that first of all we should give everything over to God. That means all that we have; it means all our abilities; it means our complete selves. Turn it all over to God and ask Him to show us what to do with our lives that He has given us. If everyone would do this, I guarantee that we would see more commitment from our church members than we ever have. But too many of us want to give only so much and hold back the rest. I also guarantee you that if we all did this, we would all ~~xxx~~ quickly find that God wouldn't take all of it. He would show us how to use what we have for Him, and we would find we had more than we ever believed that we had. We would find very quickly that we absolutely cannot outgive God. Then Jesus said, (read verse 39) & 40). Secondly, we see that God asks us to take self and give it to the needs of others. How many have you prayed for this week other than your immediate family? How many have you visited in the hospital, or nursing homes? How many have you spoken to of the spiritual needs they may have? How many have you done anything for this past week? Contrast this with how much you have done for yourself? If we loved our neighbors, and that doesn't just mean the guy next door or across the street if we love our neighbors as ourselves, we give of ourselves to them. We become the servants Jesus asks us to be.

(Illustration of Russian doctor, and Alexander Solzhenitzen)

This doctor, although he didn't become a Christian, willingly adopted Christian principles even though he well knew it might cost him his life. But because he gave up his self-interests, another man did accept Christ and has been able to share that faith with the world. The lesson of Cain and Abel is always with us. We have the chance to "Self-style" ourselves in the image of Jesus Christ, or in the image of the world. Which "self-styling" will you choose?



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor July 10, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Mike Gamble  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Opening Hymn No. 6 "This Is My Father's World"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) O God, who hast brought us into this fellowship with one another through thy Son Jesus Christ: let us be one in thought and mind and spirit. Help us to strive not to be individuals but to be a group of fellow believers. Forgive us in our weakness of turning from thee. Give us strength as we need it in our times of turmoil and frustration. Help us to live in the world, but not to be completely wrapped up in all of it. Make our wills obedient to thine, for we ask it all in Jesus' name. Amen.

\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 425 "Cleanse Me"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Scripture: Genesis 6: 1-8  
Sermon: "Behind The Externals"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 670 "Once to Every Man and Nation"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Riemer will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Isherwood in memory of Loved Ones.  
Ushers serving today are: Alta Kradel, Lois Stokes, Dutch Bolam and Marilyn Snyder.  
Attendance last Sunday was 107 with 6 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mike & Carol Roper.  
Bonnie Gannon and Helen Riemer will be visiting the hospital this week.

DATES TO REMEMBER: July 12th - Sunday School teachers meeting at 7 P.M.  
- Finance Committee at 7 P.M.  
July 21st - 7:00 a meeting of the Lay, Life & Work, Hospitality, and Activities Committees.

Beginning next Sunday the 17th, Rev. Link will be on a weeks vacation. We will have sharing the worship with us Mr. Dale Reisman. If there are any needs you may have, please contact Ginny at home or in the office and she will help you out.

AUGUST 23rd the American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive here in Rehoboth Hall. They are looking for some people to volunteer to help them out. They are looking for 5 people to help with registration, refreshments and floor helpers. If you would like to help out in any of these areas, please let the office know as soon as possible. Also we need members of the church to bake cookies. We hope someone will take charge of that as well.

The Furnace Fund is taking shape with the help of you. We received \$700.00 designated for the furnace and an increase of \$50.00 from other members. As you can see there are those who wish to help with repairs and are doing so. Won't you help out as well?

WANTED - Volunteers to help the the.Neighborhood Crime Watch Program. If you may be interested in helping out please contact the Police Department of the City who is in charge of this. *HOWARD McLANE WFO*

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN TELEVISION SYSTEMS (ACTS) is now carried on Channel 30 in the Butler area. ACTS will be the network for faith and family. Check out the ACTS Channel and see for yourself the quality of our programming and the potential the network offers.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond the God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - SEPTEMBER 17, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

MEETING THURSDAY SEPT. 22, TO MAKE PLANS  
HAYRIDE OCT. 2, FOR EVERYONE YOUNG/OLD/IN TWEEN

\*HYMN

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

PRAYER/OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 6:1-8

SERMON: "BEHIND THE EXTERNALS"

\*HYMN

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

507 MARTINEZ

17A 177



SCRIP: GENESIS 6:1-8; SRM: "BEHIND THE EXTERNALS"

(ILUS PEARL HARBOR & TH/REST OF TH/STORY")

THER MANY INCIDS LIK THIS

WE KNO EXTERNLS ,BUT NO KNO WAT BHIND THOZ EXTERNLS

IF PORTINS SCRIP LIK THIS,KNO STORY & MAY KNO WEL,

BUT 2OFT NO KNO EXTRNLA =THAT WH/BHIND TH/EXTERNLS

SCRIP THIS MORN CASE IN PT

WAT JUS READ & R LK AT GEN 6, INCIDEN LEAD 2 G'S DECISIN 2

OBLITERAT MAN FR/FACE OF EARTH

BUT NOAH & HIS FAMLY 2B SPARD

WHY? WAT WAS REAL REASN BHIN THIS???

(LK BOOK DEUT 7:1-40)

NOW FOLO INCID INVOLV CAIN /ABEL READ VSS 25-26 - 4TH CHAP GEN

NOTICE=MEN BGAN 2CALL UPON TH/NAME OF TH/LORD

THIS MENT MEN ONCE AGIN TURN BAK 2GOD

THINGS WER ON UPSWING & ENTIR 5TH CHAP TELS THZ MEN/FAMLYS &  
THER LIVS

BUT THEN READ CHAP 6:

VSS 1-2=THER SEVRL INTERPS OF THIS

FIRST: "SONS OF GOD"-WER FALLEN ANGELS

THIS CAN'T B TRU BCUZ ANGELS WER CREATD SEPRAT & DISTINC  
FR/ALL HUMAN BEINGS

SINC THEY G'S SPECIL CREATIN THEY WER UNABL 2PROCREAT LIK

HUMANS & THIS WAT DEF TAK PLACAS CHAP 6 PT OUT

SO "SONS OF G" MUS MEAN THOZ WHO FOLLOWRS OF GOD

SIMPL AS THAT = G'S PEO

BUT PROB HERE IS THEY INTRMARRY W/UNGODLY PAGNS WHO LI/RND THEM

G TAKS THIS MATTR OF INTRMARAG SERTUSLY

WHAT WHY HE TOL PEO IN BUK DEUT THEZ MARAGS WUD TURN TH/GODLY  
NTO UNGODLY

IN OTHR WORDS-TH/UNGODLY WUD REDUC TH/GODLY 2THER LEVEL

THIS WHY G REPEATEDLY WARNS TH/ISRITES 2REFRAIN FR/MIX W/UNGODLY  
NEIGHBORS MEET ALONG TH/WAY

THIS PART SATANS PLAN ,HIS TODLS TO WEAKN G'S PLAN

THIS WHY P TEL PEO IN IN CORINTH NOT TO B YOKED W/UNBLIEVRS

SO WAT WAS IT THAT CAUSED TH/GODLY 2MARRY TH/UNGODLY???

VS 2a=THEY SAW THER BEAUTY & WER BLINDED 2TH/FACT THEY WER  
UNGODLY,PAGANS,UNBLIEVRS

(ILUS PICTUR NEWSPAPER & NUMBERING OF COLLEGE CO-EDS)

THIS EXAMPL OF OUR SOCIETY,BUT SOCIETY IN OUR SCRIP SAME THING  
THOZ WHO WER BLIEVRS WER USING THER EYES 2DETERM WH GIRL 2

chooz as a wif

THER IS TREMENDUS PRESSUR 2LK AT TH/ETERNALS W/OUT LK AT WAT  
BHIND TH/EXTERNALS

THIS INTRMARAG CAUS G 2ACT DECIISIVLY IN HISTRY OF WORLD

FIRST READ: VS 3=G SAY HE GRO WEAR FOIBLS OF MAN

PREDICT MAN ONLY GOING 2SURVIV NOTHR 120 YRS

VSS 4-5=THIS END RESULT OF THOZ INTRMARAGS=SIN/EVIL/WICKEDNES

SO G IS GRIEVED & WE READ

VSS 6-8=G'S PLAN IS 2DESTROY ALL BUT 1FAMLY & START OVR

NOAH & HIS FAMLY WER GODLY & WER TH/CHOSN ONES

BUT AFTR TH/FLUD & ERTHS DESTRUCTIN IT WASNT LONG B4 MAN WAS

SINNING & TURNING AWAY FR/G AGIN

SATAN ALWAYS APEARS 2WIN OUT,OR AT LEAS IT APEARS THAT WAY

(G'S OF G'S PLAN & OTHER SIDE IS WINNING)

T,FR/THEZ EVENTS G INSTRUC THOZ WHO BACM PARENTS 2ACPT

TH/RESPONSBILTY WH/RITEFULLY THERS

IT BCAM THER RESPONSBILTY 2TEACH THEM ALL TH/THINGS WH/WER RT,

& 2AVOID TH/THINGS THAT WER WRONG

DEUT 6:6-9=READ THIS SCRIPTURE

DEUT. 7:1-4

WAT G TOL HIS PEO THIS TIM, WAS WAT TAK PLAC INCID GEN 6

FIRST: ADAM SIN & TURN FR/GOD

THEN G GIV SATAN PROMIS CONCERN HIS ULTIMAT DEMIS

THRU TH/SEED OF A WOMAN

THEN CAIN KILL ABEL & THIS START OF WAR SATAN BGAN

2 WAGE 2C THAT PROM SEED OF A WOMAN WUD NO CUM 4TH

& FULFIL G'S PROM - HIS WORD

(BACK PAGE 1)

DEUT 6:6-9=READ THIS SCRIPTUR

G'S PLAN WAS STIL THAT A SEED FROM A WOMAN WUD CUM 4th

but until then g had 2LV MAN 2HIS OWN DEVICES W/OUT STEP IN &  
DESTROY HIM AGIN, WH/G CUD EASLY HAV DUN

WAT WE R LK AT THEZ SCRIPS IS THAT MARRYING, OR NOT MARRYING  
MUSB DUN IN G'S WILL

OUR SOCIETY PLACES TH/VALUES ON LOOKS, ROMANC, LIVING HAPLIT,  
EVER AFTR, FANCY WEDDINGS, & DREAMS & ILLUSIONS OF TH/PERFECT  
WEDDING, PERF MATE, ETC.

BUT LIF, ALL OF IT, WTHR INVOLVE MARAG OR NOT, A CAREER, A JOB  
OR ANYTHING, MUST BE LIVED BY WAT G WANTS US TO DO

WE CAN ALWAYS FOLO OUR OWN DESIRS & BLIEV THEM 2B RITE

BUT WE MUS ALWAYS ASK SELVS=IS THIS WAT G WANTS ME 2DO???

IF WE CAN HAV A SP PEACE ABOUT TH/SITUATIN W/OUT CONTINULY  
ARGUING W/OURSELVES ABOUT TH/RITNES OR WRONGNES OF IT, THEN WE  
CAN BLIEV IT IS WAT G WANTS

BUT IF OUR ANSR STIRS UP MOR ANXIETY MWE BETTR REMEDY IT B4  
IT IS 2LATE

THER R 2MANY MEN & WOMEN WHO HAV ENTRED MARAG LOOKING ONLY AT  
ROMANC OF TH OCASIN ONLY 2SUFFR GILT TH/REST OF THER LIVS

R WE DOING WAT WE CAN - TEACHING WAT WE SHUD - RAISING OUR  
CHILDRN AS WE SHUD ACORDING TO WAT G WANTS???

2OFT WE R INCLIND 2BLIEV WE WE DO NOT COUNT & WE R OF NO INFLUENC

(ILUS OF THE CHAIN OF CONVERSION)

FR/THIS SIMPL ILUWS OF THOZ WHO LIVD 4 GOD WE CAN C TH/CHAIN  
REACTIN WH/TUK PLAC

IF EVR PERSN WHO CLAIMS 2B A BLIEVR WUD SEEK 2DO ALL HE/SHE  
POSSIBLY CUD 2LIV COMPLETELY 4GOD, THIS CHAIN REACTIN WUD TH/RULE  
& NOT TH/EXCEPTIN

ALL THAT G EVR DESIRD OF ANYONE IS OBEDIENC  
AS U LK AT UR LIF U KNO TH/EXTERNALS, & MANY OTHRS DO AS WEL

BUT WAT R TH/THINGS BHIND TH/EXTERNALS??

R THEY EVENTS & CIRCUMSTANCES THAT R GOD PLEASING??

R THEY EVENTS & CIRCUMSTANCES THAT R GOD HONORING???

THOZ THINGS R KNOWN BY G & US INDIVIDULY

G FULFILLD HIS PLAN THRU TH/SEED WH/WAS JS XP

WE HAV TH/OPORTUNITY 2LIV 4HIM AS HE DIRECTS

WAT IS BHIND OUR EXTERNALS IN THIS LIFE WE LIVE??



(Ilus Perl Harbr & Bhin Externals)

Deut 7:1-4

Gen 6:1-2

vs 2=SAW

(Ilus unschedul beauty contest)

v

vss 4-5

vss 6-8

Deut 6:6-9

(Ilus chain reactin conversins)

Wat we lk at thiz Scrips is that mary or not mary musB dun in  
 G's wil  
 our society plac values on lks,romanc,liv haply evr aftr,etc  
 But lif,all of it whethr involv marag,a career,or anyth else  
 musB liv by do wat G want us 2do  
 We can alway folc own desir & Bliev them 2B rite  
 t mus always ask self-Is this wat G wants of me?  
 If we can hav sp peac bout th/situatin then can kno it fr/G  
 But if our ansr only stir up mor anxiety then bettr seek  
 a remedy B4 it 2late  
 Ther R many men/womn who hav entr marag & only lk at romanc of  
 th ocasin,only 2sufr gilt rest of livs  
 We mus Lk Bhin Th/Externls  
 R we do wat can,teach wat shud,rais childrn as shud acord 2wat  
 G wants?  
 2oft we inclin 2Bliev we do not count & ther'4 canot B of much  
 influenc  
 (Ilus chain of conversin)  
 Fr/this simpl ilus of thoz who livd 4-G we can C chain reactin  
 wh/tuk plac  
 if evr persn who claim 2B Bliev'r wud seek 2do all he/she cud p  
 2liv completyt 4 G this chain reactin wudB th/rule insted of  
 th/exceptin  
 All that G evr desir of His creatin was=Cbedienc  
 As U lk at Ur lif U kno th/Externls & many of us kno them  
 as wel if we aquant w/U  
 But wat R th/Things Bhin Th/Externls?  
 R they events & circumstances wh/R G pleas & G honor?  
 Thez things R known by G & us provatly  
 G fulfil His plan as promis thru Js Xp  
 He was th/SEED  
 We hav th/pprtunty 2liv 4 Him as He directs

"Behind The Externals"  
 Scripture: Genesis 6:1-8  
 (Ilus Pearl Harbr & Bhind externls)  
 Ther many incidnts lik this, we kno externls,but no kno wat Bhin  
 Dif portins Scrip lik this 2,we kno storys,but no kno wat Bhin  
 & our Scrip this morn cas in pt  
 We kno wat jus red, is inciden wh/lead 2-G's decisin 2oblitrat  
 m: }fr/erth & spar only Noah & famly  
 But wat real reasn Bhin this?  
 Deut 7:1-4=thiz givn aftr Gen  
 1st Adam sin,turn fr/G;& then G gav proph concern ult demis of  
 Satn thru SEED of a Woman  
 Then Cain kil Abel & this start of war Satn Bgin wag 2C that  
 promis SEED wudnt cum 4th & fulfil G's Word  
 then fol: this read in Gen4:25  
 this ment man lnce agin had turn bak 2-G  
 things wer on upswing & 5th chap tel of men/famlys/& livs  
 6:1-2=Expl interps of angels/men who Bliev in G  
 they wer G's peo,but trubl they intrmarry w/ungodly pagans  
 G taks matt'r of intrmarag seriously & that why He tol peo wat we  
 red in Deut 7  
 in othr words thez marags wud turn godly 2-ungodly & reduc 2  
 ther level  
 This why G repeatdly warn Is refrain fr/mix w/ungodly neighbors  
 along way  
 P tel Corinth=do not B unequally yokd w/unBlievrs  
 Wat caus this t\_k plac? Vs 2=THEY SAW  
 they saw ther buty & that wat blind them  
 (Ilus unscheduled beauty contest on college campus)  
 But that exampl not only our society,but society as bak in time o:  
 Writ of Gen  
 Thoz who wer Blievrs wer use eyes 2detrm wh/girl 2chooz as wif  
 mer is tremendus presur 2day 2 lk at externls w/out lk wat Bhin  
 2 Externls  
 vs 3=thiz intrmary caus G act decisivly in histry of worl  
 G say He weary of put up w/mans foibles  
 So G predic man wil only liv nothr 120 yrs on erth  
 vs 4-5=pt out wat hapa w/intrmarags  
 vs 6-8=G is griev & G's plan destroy creatin & start all ovr agin  
 w/jus 1 famly & He did this  
 But aftr that wasnt 2long man start turn fr/G agin  
 Satn alway seem win out,or it apear that way  
 But G cudnot keep destroy erth & peo  
 Thus fr/thez even G instruc thoz who Bcum parent 2acpt responsa  
 bilty wh/ritely thers  
 It Bcum responsbilty 2rais childrn by teach all things that  
 wer rite & avoid things that wer wrong  
 Deut 6:6-9  
 G's plan was stil SEED cum fr/Woman but til then G had 2let man  
 zhiz own devices w/out step in & destroy him wh/G cud hav easily  
 d'n



## "Behind The Externals"

Scripture: Genesis 6:1-8

(Illustration of Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor & "The Rest Of The Story")

I'm sure that almost all of us have some knowledge of the sneak attack that took place on December 7, 1941. The Japanese had been planning this move for ten years. Beginning in 1931 and for the next ten years the same question appeared on the final exam of the graduating class at Japan's Naval Academy. Each graduating cadet was asked the same question, "How would you carry out a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor?" In February of 1932 the Japanese arrived at what they thought was a foolproof plan for this attack. But for nine more years the question was still asked of the Naval cadets. In the fall of 1941, a Japanese ship arrived in Honolulu and four of the crew members were actually officers in the Japanese Navy. That ship had come down a northern course passing near the Aleutian islands. Just as they had expected they didn't encounter either ships nor aircraft on this desolate part of the ocean. So the Japanese decided that their plan would work. Now ~~that~~ those are the externals of this situation. ~~But that isn't the whole story and there is a story behind those externals.~~ In 1932 the Japanese had this theory demonstrated for them by none other than the United States Navy. A U.S. Admiral Harry Yarnell decided to demonstrate the vulnerability of Pearl Harbor by slipping two aircraft carriers in close from the north. He launched 152 aircraft which theoretically would have destroyed the planes on the ground and sunk most of the ships at anchor. So almost ten years before Pearl Harbor, the United States showed the Japanese how to bomb Pearl Harbor.

There are many such incidents ~~of~~ like this. We know the externals, but we don't know the things which are behind those externals. Different portions of Scripture are like this as well. We know the stories, and perhaps we know them very well, but what we don't know often times is that which is "Behind The Externals."

Our Scripture for this morning is a case in point. We know that what we just read and are looking at in this 6th chapter of Genesis is an incident which leads to God's decision to obliterate man from the earth and spare only Noah and his family. But what was the real reason behind this?

In the book of Deuteronomy at a later time, God gave these directions as recorded in the 7th chapter, verses 1 through 4, (read this portion). What God told His people at this time was what had taken place in this incident in the 6th chapter of Genesis. First Adam had sinned and turned from God. God gave His prophecy to Satan concerning his ultimate demise through the seed of a woman. Then Cain killed Abel. This was the start of the war that Satan began to wage to see that the promised Seed of the woman would not come forth and fulfill God's Word. But we read following this incident with Cain and Abel in the 25th verse of the 4th chapter, (read this). "Men began to call upon the name of the Lord." This meant that men once again had turned back to God. Things were on the upswing and the entire 5th chapter tells us of these men and their families and their lives. But then we read in the beginning of the 6th chapter, "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose," verses 1 & 2.

There are several interpretations of this. One is that the "Sons of God," were fallen angels. But this can't be because angels were unable to procreate and the following verses tell us definitely that this took place. The interpretation is that the "Sons of God," were those

who were followers of God. It's as simple as that. They were God's people. But the problem was that they were intermarrying with the ungodly pagans who lived around them. God takes the matter of intermarriage seriously. That is why He told the people as recorded in the book of Deuteronomy that these marriages would turn the godly to the ungodly. In other words, the ungodly would reduce the godly to their level. This is why God repeatedly warns the Israelites to refrain from mixing with the ungodly neighbors they encountered along the way. This is Satan's tool to weaken God's plan. This is why Paul told the Corinthians to Not be yoked together with unbelievers. So what was it that caused the Godly to begin to marry the ungodly and turn from God? In the 2nd verse we read, "The sons of God SAW the daughters of the sons of men that they were fair."

They saw their beauty and that was what blinded them.

(Illustration of picture in newspaper & numbering of the college co-eds)

A picture appeared in a newspaper not too long ago. A group of guys were sitting around the edge of the fountain on a well-known state university. As co-eds walked by, the guys would lift up a number from the stack of cards on their laps and rate the girl on a scale of 1-10. This unscheduled beauty contest probably made a lot of girls find another way to class.

But that is a good example of not only our society, but society as it was back in this ~~Scripture~~. Those who were believers, were using their eyes to determine which girl to choose as a wife. There is tremendous pressure to look at the externals without looking at what is "Behind The Externals."

This intermarriage caused God to act decisively in the history of the world. ~~Fixs~~  
First we read, (read verse 3). Here, God says that He is growing weary of putting up with the foibles of man. So God predicts that man is going to only survive another 120 years on the earth. The next two verses, (4 & 5), point out what happened because of these intermarriages. So God is grieved and we read, (read verses 6-8). God's plan is to destroy His creation and start over with just one Godly family, and He did this. But after that it wasn't too long and man was starting to turn from God all over again. Satan always seems to win out, or at least it appears that way. But God could not keep on destroying the earth, and the people. Thus, from these events God instructed those who became parents to accept the responsibility that was rightfully theirs. It became their responsibility to raise their children by teaching them all the things that were right and to avoid the things that were wrong. In Deuteronomy the 6th chapter we read again, verses 6 through 9, (read these). God's plan was still that a Seed would come from a Woman, but until then God had to ~~let~~ <sup>LEAVE</sup> man to his own devices without stepping in and destroying him, which God could have easily done. What we are looking at in these Scriptures is that marrying, or not marrying must be done in God's will. Our society places the values on looks, romance, living happily ever after and so on. But life, all of it, whether it involves marriage, a career, or what have you, must be lived by doing what God wants us to do. We can always follow our own desires and believe them to be right. But we must always ask ourselves, "Is this what God wants of me?"

If we can have a spiritual peace about the situation, then we can know it is from God. But if our answer only stirs up more anxiety, then we better seek a remedy before it is too late. There are too many men & women who have entered marriage looking only at the romance

ILUS  
SATAN IS  
WINNING



of the occasion, only to suffer guilt the rest of their lives. We must look "Behind The Externals."

Are we doing what we can, teaching what we should, raising our children as we should, according to what God wants? Too often we are inclined to believe that we do not count and we certainly cannot be of much influence.

(Illustration of the Chain of Conversion)

In 1855 a Sunday School teacher named Kimball led a 19 year-old shoe salesman to Jesus Christ. He in turn became a Sunday School teacher leading other youth to Christ. Later he became a world renowned evangelist. His name --- Dwight L. Moody. He led hundreds of thousands to Christ in this country and England. Though poorly educated, on one of his English trips, he influenced the well-educated and cultured theologian F. B. Meyer to change his preaching style and emphasis. Later, F. B. Meyer came to the United States on an evangelistic tour and on one occasion a discouraged preacher, Wilbur Chapman was in the audience. Through Meyer's preaching he ~~influenced~~ influenced Chapman to become an evangelist. As his evangelistic ministry increased he needed an assistant. So he hired a former baseball player with a high school education to help him. His name -- Billy Sunday. He won over 1 million people to Christ. In 1924, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Billy Sunday preached a revival; a prayer group was formed, which met regularly. When the depression started they became convinced it was God's judgement on the nation. They prayed for another revival, and Mordecai Ham responded. Later, when Ham became an evangelist, and he was preaching, a 16 year-old farm boy was converted by the name of William Franklin Graham. Billy Graham has preached to millions of ordinary people as well as kings, presidents and prime ministers. But it all started with a Sunday School teacher named Kimball. Suppose he or any of the others had failed to do what God wanted of them?

From this simple illustration of those who lived for God we can see the chain reaction which took place. If every person who claims to be a believer would seek to do all that he or she possibly could to live completely for God this chain reaction would be the rule instead of the exception. All that God ever desired for His human creation was obedience. As you look at your life you know the "Externals," and many of us know them as well if we are acquainted with you. But what are the things "Behind The Externals?" Are they events and circumstances which are God-pleasing and God-honoring? Those things are known by God and us.

God fulfilled His plan as He promised through Jesus Christ. He was THE SEED. We have the opportunity to live for Him as He directs.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor July 24, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Ray Gamble and Nicole Merrison  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Opening Hymn No. 98 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, send thy Spirit with  
fire and zeal into our sinful lives. We confess our  
brokenness in thy Church; the dissension we have  
perhaps caused by unbelief, or disobedience to thy  
Word. Grant us a new Spirit to live for thee and to  
overcome the temptations we so often fall victim to;  
cleanse us and forgive us again. Through Jesus  
Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.  
\*Kyrrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 467 "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Scripture: Genesis 10:32-11:9  
Sermon: "Division Equals Subtraction"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 455 "I Am Thine, O Lord"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Our greeters at the door this morning are Mr. & Mrs. Jim  
Gannon. Welcome members and friends!  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Phyllis Tait and Beth in memory of Bob Tait.  
Ushers serving today are Dick Mangel, George Pflugh, Don  
Kingsley and Dick Dally.

Attendance last Sunday was 75 with 6 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Shirley Link.  
Bill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the  
hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Mrs. Ann Williams in BMH.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 29 - 7:00 P.M. Finance Committee meeting  
Aug. 1 - 7:00 P.M. Benevolence Committee meeting  
> The Furnace Fund is being greatly responded to. In last  
weeks offering we received \$1,020.00 designated for  
the furnace. This shows you that we can do it and we  
all need to pull together to get the job done. Won't  
you consider helping with this project.

> Liturgists are needed to serve while the Pastor is away  
next month. If you feel God move you in such a way  
to serve, please contact the office before the draft  
takes effect.

We need to thank Bob Weisenstein for serving as Liturgist  
last Sunday. Thanks for a job well done!

> VBS Mission project is still open until the end of the  
month. If you would like to help some unfortunate  
child go to a summer camp and learn about Jesus, you  
may do so by putting your contribution into the big  
piggy bank sitting in the rear of the church. So far  
we have \$134 and need \$200.00.

> Next Sunday we will have a table set up in the Narthex  
where you can sign up for the blood drive that is being  
held on August 23rd. Times are from 1 to 5 P.M.  
Also if you would like to volunteer your help for that  
day you may do so by seeing Ginny. Check your  
calendar and come sign up. We will have the signing  
up sheet for July 31 and August 7th, then we must  
turn it in. Please consider this and help out.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - SEPT 25, 1994

Prelude

Greeting/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

NEXT SUNDAY - OCT 2, COMMUNION *for Oct 8 Hayride*  
HAYRIDE AT 2PM - *Subst New Pastor*  
AFTER HAYRIDE WEINER ROAST - bring own  
buns, weiners, & 2 liter pop  
signup sheet for those going on wagon,  
& those who will be off the wagon  
Saturday - OCT 29, HALLOWEEN PARTY 7:00 PM  
COMMITTEES - FOOD PAM & MABEL  
GAMES JOANN  
DECORATING BILL  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, THANKSGIVING DINNER, WILL BE  
PASSING A MENU  
FRIDAY NOV 11, YOUTH LOCK IN

HYMN  
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN  
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 10:32-11:9  
SERMON: "DIVISION EQUALS SUBTRACTION"  
\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

*HAITI - ANSWERED PRAYERS -*  
*UNSPOKEN - MADE*  
*TEAM*  
*CHARLOTTE*  
*THANKY*  
*HEIKES PARENTS*

SCRIPTURE: GEN 10:32-11:9; SERM: "DIVISION EQUALS SUBTRACTION"

THIS MORN WIL SHAR PHENOM DEFYS MATH AS WE KNO IT=DIV = SUB  
(ILUS SCHOOL SUPT & DETERIORATIN OF MESAG)  
PICTUR LRG CONST PROJ=HUGE TOWR EREC OF BRIK:DAY AFTR DAY GO HIGH  
SENS PRID,ACOMP EXPRS BY AL AS TOWR TAK SHAP

SAM & AARON ON SCAP=NEED MOR BRIKS: AARON ANSR NO UNDRSTUD  
TURN TO BUDY BSIDE HIM & SAY=I BLIEV AARON BIN IN SUN TOO LNG  
BUT REPLY NOT INTELIGBL EITHR & SUDNLY NO ONE UNDRST OTHRS  
INCID FR/SCRIP: CHAPS 9-10 RECORD HISTRY NOAH & FAMLY

10:32=THEY WER DIVID ACCORD CLANS/TRIBES & LANGUAG  
WIL C CONTINUATIN SATANS ATAKS 2DESTROY G'S PERN PROM SEED  
DID INDIVID W/ADAM & EVE, THEN CAIN, THEN NOAH & NOW COLECTIVLY  
2PREVENT THIS G HAD COMAN PEO 2SPRED OUT  
CHAP 9:1=NO MEAN JUS HAV CHILDREN, MENT SPRED OUT INHABIT EARTH  
SO WAT DID THEY DO???

VSS 1-2=SHINAR WAS NUN OTHER THAN ANCIENT BABYLON  
SO PEO OF GOD REDY 2TAK FALL  
VS 3=VERY 1ST THING WAS 2GO AGIN G'S PLAN 4THEM

GOING TO BILD  
 VS 4=SOT 2BILD MONUMEN 2THER ABILTYS - REACH HVN  
 MAN WAS SEEK AGIN 2B LIK GOD  
 GOING TO DO TWO THINGS =BILD & MAK A NAM  
 VS 4B=MAK A NAM  
 NAM HAS ROOTS IN THAT WH/ABUV,OR LOFTY 2B INDEPEN - OF G'S WIL  
 NTROL  
 NOT ONLY OPOS G,BUT GLORIFY SELVS & WEN OTHERS SAW TOWER  
 WUD SAY=LK WAT MAN CAN DO!!!  
 WESTMINSTR CATECHISM ASKS QUESTIN=WAT IS CHIEF END OF MAN??  
 TH/CHIEF END OF MAN IS TO GLORIFY G & ENJOY HIM FOREVER  
 IN ALL OF LIF EVRTH DO,ANYTH BCUM,ALL WE ACCOMP IS 2B SUN 2HONOR  
 & GLORIFY GOD  
 DUZNT MEAN NEVR DO ANYTH,ACHIEV HONORS OR POSITIN  
 IT MEANS WEN THEZ THINGS CUM OUR WAY IN GRATFUL LUV WE SAY =  
 THANK YOU GOD,I CUDNT HAV DUN IT W/OUT YOU  
 HOW MANY DO THAT ON REG BASIS??  
 WE ACPT WAT G GIVS & HAV LITL/NO THOT WHER CUMS FR  
 YET,G GIVS LIF/BRETH/HEALTH/ALL WE NEED 2SUCEED & MOSTLY NEVR  
 THINK ~~EXR~~ OR THANK HIM  
 (ILUS SIMPL THINGS & WAT IT TAKS 2DO THEM - LIK MOV HAND/FINGER)  
 EVN IN THIS MINOR THING,G HAS DIRECTED ME  
 (ILUS NEWS OF MARS & COLONIZATIN,LANDING)  
 WE NO DIF THAN PEO BABYLON=SHINAR-LET US MAK A NAM  
 WE HAV OWN TOWERS,BLDGS WE CAL ONE SEARS TOWER  
 WHO DO WE GLORIFY?? GOD?? MAN?? WE KNO ANSR ALL TOO WELL  
 2ND REASON TO BILD=VS/VC  
 WAT TOL TO DO?? DISPERS,MOV OUT,INHAB ALL EARTH  
 THER DESIR=TO STAY IN ONE PLACE & MAK A NAM FOR SELVS  
 THAT WAT SATAN WANT THEM TO DO  
 IF HE HAD ALL ONE PLAC,ONE LANG G'S PLAN NO CUM TO PASS,  
 WHO NEEDS G IF MAN HAS EVRTH HE WANTS/NEEDS  
 SO G/DIVIDED THEM UP & SUBTRACTED THEM FR/THIS PLAC  
 NO INGR CUD THEY SPK & B UNDRSTUD BY OTHERS  
 DID PEO TURN BAK TO GOD?? BIBL NO SAY SO  
 ALL WE KNO IS MAN HAS BIN LED TO OVRUM LANG BARRIERS & TODAY  
 WE STIL C SATANS LIES BEING SPRED AROUND THE WORLD  
 BUT EVN IN MIDST OUR TOWNS OF BABEL,G HAS STEP IN & WE KNO G  
 FULFIL PROM THRU JS XP & TO GLORIFY G IS TO LUV HIM & HIS SON  
 (ILUS WIDOW & "ARMS OF G AROUND HER")  
 MIDST WORLDLINES/UNGODLINESS G STIL THER SEEK PUT ARMS RND US  
 HE THER IN PLAINS OF SHINAR & WILB THER WENEVR MAN SEEKS 2B HIS  
 OWN GOD  
 R U WHER U R BCUZ OF URSELF? OR HAS G BIN RESPONSBL 4ALL OF IT  
 REACH OUT TO HIM TODAY & THANK HIM FOR ALL U HAV & R  
 FEEL THOZ ARMS OF LUV ARND U,& KNO ALL HE WANTS IS UR LUV

"Divison Equals Subtraction"  
 Scripture: Genesis 10:32-11:9  
 (Ilus communicatin deterioratin-progresiv report Haleys comet)  
 needles 2say this prim examp commun Bcum bog dwn miarbtly  
 pictur if U wil lrg const projec go on-huge towr B bilt of brik  
 day by day men labr & towr go highr/highr  
 er sens prid,acomp expres by all peo as ther Blov towr slowly  
 surly taks shap  
 then lday Sam on scaf & cal 2 Aaron 4mor briks-but ansrno undrstud  
 Sam jokly turn 2buddy lay briks & say=BOY I BLIEV AARON BIN OUT  
 IN SUN TOO LONG & he lafs  
 But then biddy reply in lang Sam no undrstand  
 Sudnly no one can undrstan anyone els watvr B sed,no undrstud  
 incident is fr/our Scrip  
 chaps 9 & 10 record histry Noah famly & sumap 10:32=Read  
 They wer divid acord clans/tribe/& languag & chap 11 giv reasns  
 Wat continu tak plac this erly histry is Satn ataks 2destroy G's  
 plan of prom Seed thru a Womn  
 he did this thru Ad/Ev,then Cain,then Noah,& now collectivly  
 2prevn this G comand=9:1  
 this no mean wer 2jus hav childrn,it ment spred out inhab erth  
 they wer not 2B gathr jus one place,but wat did they do?  
 vss 182=they Bgan 2do wat G wantd  
 this Shinar was ancient Babylon  
 So wat did this invit stretch land bring 4th? = vss 3&4A  
 very 1st thing was 2go agin G's plans 4them  
 they wer go2 cong & stay in 1 plac,but wer also go 2bild selvs  
 monumen 2ther abiltys  
 this towr was 2reach hvn,or litrly th/sky  
 once agin man was seek 2Bcum lik G  
 So by ther own plans th/peo wer go 2do 2 things  
 FIRST:vs 4B=let us mak a name  
 we name has roots in that wh/lofty,abuv;it mean independ & this  
 exactly wat thez peo wer seek  
 they want 2B independ of G's control  
 they want control own destny  
 wen this hspn they wer at dangras pt not only of opos G,but of  
 glorify selvs  
 they wud bild towr reach hvns & anyone C wud exclaim=Lk wat man  
 can do  
 Conflic alway exis tween G & man & jus who 2receiv glory  
 Westminstr catechism states=Th chief end of man is 2glorfy G &  
 2 enjoy Him 4ever  
 that means in all of life,evrth we do,anyth we Bcum,all that we  
 R abl 2accompl is 2B dun 2honor & glorfy G  
 it duznt mean we nevr achiev anythin,it simply mean anyth we  
 achiev or do,any honors/positins may cum our way,we in grateful  
 luv say=Thank U G,I cudnt hav dun w/out U  
 But how man us do that on reg basis?  
 We acpt all G giv us daily w/out thot wher cum fr/or how we  
 got it



2/  
Yet in so many litl things of daily existenc, G is giv us lif,  
breth, vitality, evrth we need 2succeed & we nevr think His do thez  
things 4us

if we did, we cud lk at situ & say=Evn in this minor thing G has  
led me or directed me

(Ilus U.S. plant colony on Mars by 2050; land in 2015)

No or that anounc did say=~~xxx~~ If G givs us abilty we wil do  
we can C we no dif 2day than thoz stud ancient plain Shinar  
& sed=Let us mak a name

We hav bilt citys/towrs & in fac cal one=Sears Tower  
But who do we glorfy? Is it G? Or is it man? We kno th/ansr 2wel

But this desir 2mak nam 4selvs was Bcuz of 2nd reasn they gav  
vs 4C=Wat wer they tol 2do?

G sed 2dispers, 2mov out, 2inhabit all erth & fil it

but ther desir was 2stay in one place

this exac wat Satn want them 2do

if he had all peo at one cert plac w/one lang then his lie xx

cudB comun mor easly & G's plan cudnt cum 2pas

w/bild this towr & this city, man Bcam mor educat, mor sophis &

need 4 G Bcam les & les as man advanc

So G step in2 this situ & confound ther lang

no lngr cud they all talk & B undrstud

In this helples stat th/obvius solu wud seem 2B that peo wud turn  
bak 2 G

But Bibl this pt no reveal that info

Th/Divisin of th/peo caus Subtractin fr/G's plan

Wll that we kno is that man was led 2ovrcum lang barriers & 2day  
in our worl w/all our comunicatin abiltys, Satns lies entangle  
worl in sin

But evn in midst our towrs of Babl, & in midst mak nams 4selvs

G has givn us th/fulfilment of His prom & we lern fr/Js Xp that

2 glorify G is 2luv Him

(Ilus widow & lik=Arms of G around my life)

Amid all th/worldliness & ungodliness that we C aroun us, G stil  
ther seek 2put His arms rnd us

He was ther in plains of Shinar, & wilB ther in evry instanc wher  
man seeks 2B his own god

R U self-satisfy w/Ur partic lif?

Has Ur acompl cum bout Bcuz U R so smart/so intel/so talent?

Or is evrth about U Bcuz of G's luv?

Reach out 2Him 2day & thank Him 4all U R & all U hav

Feel thoz arms of luv aroun U & kno that all He wants is Ur luv

# "Division Equals Subtraction"

Scripture: Genesis 10:32 - 11:9

(Illustration of communication deterioration - (progressive report about Haley's Comet)

Needless to say, this is a prime example of communications becoming bogged down miserably.

Picture if you will, a large construction project going on. A Huge tower is being erected out of brick. Day by day the men labor and the tower goes higher and higher. There is a sense of pride, of accomplishment expressed by all of the people as their beloved tower slowly but surely takes shape. Then one day, Samuel is on the scaffold and he calls to Aaron for more bricks. But the answer Aaron gives is not understood by Samuel. He jokingly turns to his buddy laying bricks beside him and says, "Boy I believe Aaron's been out in the sun too long," and he laughs. But his buddy in reply also speaks in an unintelligible manner. Suddenly, no one can understand anyone else. Whatever conversation being held is spoken in many different languages and no one can communicate.

The incident of course is from our Scripture. Chapters 9 and 10 record the history of Noah's family which is summed up in the last verse of the 10th chapter, (read this). They were divided according to their clans and tribes, and their languages, which chapter 11 gives us the reason for the divisions.

God had given orders to the people and in the 1st verse of the 9th chapter we read, (read this verse). After the flood, the people were to fill the earth. This doesn't mean that they were to just have children, but they were to spread out and inhabit the earth. God didn't want the people all gathered at one place. This is what Cain had done after God had dealt with him. We read that he went out and built a city. This wasn't according to God's plan because if all of the population was gathered at one place the escalation of wickedness was bound to develop. Satan had all of humanity in one place, with one language and there it was easier for him to tell his lie and thwart what God had promised to do through the Seed of a woman. As you can see, this ~~plot~~ conflict between God's plan and Satan's plan is woven in these chapters of Genesis.

What continues to take place in this early history is Satan's attacks to destroy God's plan of a promised Seed from a Woman. He did this individually with Adam and Eve, then Cain, Noah, and now he does it collectively. To prevent this God had commanded that the people were to spread out. In the 1st verse of the 9th chapter we read, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.'"

This didn't mean that they were to just have children. It meant that they were to spread out and inhabit the earth. They were not to be gathered at just one place. But what did they do? They began to do what God had told them as we read, (read verses 1 & 2). This was fine as far as they went. But this plain which they came to was "Shinar" and this Shinar was none other than ancient Babylon. So right at this point, these people of God were ready to take a fall.

So what did this inviting stretch of land bring forth? "And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen they had for mortar. And they said, 'Come, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven.' verses 3 & 4A.



The very first thing they did was to go against God's plans for them. They were going to congregate and stay in one place, but they were also going to build themselves a monument to their abilities. This tower was going to reach heaven, or literally the sky. Once again man was seeking to become like God.

So it is that by their own plans, the people were going to do two things.

First, we read in this 4th verse, "And let us make us a name." Verse 4B.

The word "name" has its root in that which is above, or lofty. It meant being independent and this is exactly what these people were seeking. They wanted to be independent of God's control. They wanted to control their own destiny. When this happened they were at that dangerous point not only of opposing God, but of glorifying themselves. They would build this tower reaching to the heavens and anyone seeing it would exclaim, "Look at what man can do!"

The conflict always exists between God and man as to just Who is to receive glory. The Westminster catechism states, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. That means that in all of life, everything we do, anything we become, all that we are able to accomplish is to be done to honor and glorify God. It doesn't mean we never achieve anything. It simply means that anything we achieve or do, any honors or positions that may come our way, we in grateful love say, "Thank you God, I couldn't have done it without You." But how many of us actually do that on a regular basis? We accept all that God gives us daily with little or no thought of where it came from or how we got it. Yet, in so many simple little things of our daily existence, God is giving us the life, the breath, the vitality, everything we need to succeed, and we never think of His doing ~~this~~ these things for us so that we can simply look at the situation and say, "Even in this minor thing God has led me or directed me."

I heard on the news this week that ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ around 2050 or so we have plans to colonize the planet Mars. In fact, plans are now underway for the United States to land on Mars around 2015. Now nowhere in that announcement did it say, "If God gives us the ability and direction to do this." We can see that we are no different today than those people who stood on that ancient plain of Shinar and said, "Let us make a name." We have built our cities and towers. In fact we even call one, "The Sears Tower." But who do we glorify? Is it God? Or is it man? We know the answer all too well.

But this desire to make a name for themselves was because of the second reason they gave.

We read that they said they wanted to make a name, "Lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." verse 4C.

What were they told to do? God said they were to disperse, to move out, to inhabit all of the earth and fill it. But their desire was to stay in one place. This was exactly what Satan wanted them to do. If he had all of the people at one certain place ~~xxxxxx~~ with one language then his lie could be communicated more easily and God's plan could not come to pass. With the building of this tower and this ~~xx~~ city, man became more educated, more sophisticated and the need for God became less and less as man advanced. So God stepped into this situation and confounded their language. No longer could they all talk and be understood.

In this helpless state, the obvious solution would seem to be that the people would turn back to God. But the Bible at this point chooses not to reveal that information. All that we know is that man has been led to overcome the language barriers and today in our world with all of our communications abilities, Satan's lies entangles the world in sin. But even in the midst of our own towers of Babel, and in the midst of making names for ourselves, God has given us the fulfillment of His promise and we learn from Jesus Christ that to glorify God is to love Him.

(Illustration of widow and the "Arms of God around my life")

A pastor tells of a widow in his congregation coming to him one Sunday morning after the church service. Her husband had suddenly and tragically been taken from her. She said she knew of God's love and that He never made mistakes, but she said what she knew in her head was not what she felt in her heart. All of her friends tried to comfort her with words about God's goodness, His love, and so on. But all of this didn't have any effect on her. But then one Sunday, a friend walked up to her and said nothing at all. That friend put her arms around her and held her tight. She told her pastor, "It was like the arms of God around my life."

Amid all the worldliness and ungodliness that we see around us, God is still there seeking to put His arms around us. He was there in the plain of Shinar and He will be there in every instance where man seeks to be his own god. Are you self-satisfied with your particular life? Has your accomplishments come about because you are so smart, so intelligent, so talented? Or is everything about you because of God's love? Reach out to Him today and thank Him for all that you are and have. Feel those arms of love around you and know that all He wants is your love.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor July 31, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Nicole Morrison and Ray Gamble

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Opening Hymn No. 337 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God, our Father: you created us for life together. We confess that we have turned from your will. We have not loved one another as you commanded. We have been quick to claim our own rights and careless of the rights of others. We have taken much and given little. Forgive our disobedience, O God, and strengthen us in love, so that we may serve you as a faithful people, and live together in your joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 35 "Near to the Heart of God"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-9

Sermon: "Stepping Stones"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 462 "Living for Jesus"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in memory of Loved Ones.

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weisenstein will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Marge Smiley, Deb Melton, Genny Nohach and Lucille Tack.

Attendance last Sunday was 111 with 21 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and Lori Weisenstein.

Ben Vensel and Herb Shearer will be visiting the hospital this week.

> DATES TO REMEMBER: Aug. 1 - Benevolence meeting at 7 P.M.

The Mary Prugh picnic will be held Monday evening at 6:00 at Betty Tressler's home. Bring a tureen and a white elephant gift for bingo.

> Cookies, Cookies and more Cookies are need for the August 23rd Blood Drive here in Rehoboth Hall. If you would like to bake some, please let Peg McClymonds know. Also please take a minute today and next Sunday to sign up to donate blood, or see Ginny. Let's make this a better effort than the past couple of years. Time is 1 - 5 P.M.

Flowers are needed for the altar on August 28 and September 11th. Please take a minute and sign up now.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

August 6th - Beach Party at Lake Erie, will be leaving the church at 8 a.m. and return at 7 p.m.

August 10th we are going to the Butler Farm Show at 6 P.M.

> We still are in need of Liturgists for the Sundays that the Pastor is on vacation. Please pray that God will direct your heart to do this work for Him.

Furnace Fund receipts from last Sunday totalled \$120.00

Lets all keep up the good work and soon we have a new heating system to show for it. WE CAN DO IT!!!

VBS Mission - today is the last day to contribute to our mission. Please make a deposit in the Big pig and help out our project.

The annual Country Market held at Sunnyview will be on August 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details are on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 2, 1994

PRELUDE  
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS  
TODAY - HAYRIDE DETAILS  
COMMUNION & FIRST SUN EVERY MONTH

DAILY BREAD

\*HYMN  
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN  
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 12:1-9 - ST. PAUL'S APOSTLE  
SERMON: "STEPPING STONES" 7/31/88  
\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

FRANCY - PASTOR

RICHARD

ETHEL

UNSPOKEN - JOHN

HARRY & ROSE

BILL

EMOGENE

JEAN

SCRIP: GEN 12:1-9; SERMON: "STEPPING STONES"  
(ILUS JESSICA MITFORD, DAD-LIBRARY & READING BOOKS)  
EXAMP SUMONE SATISFY WHERE IS & NO INTENTIN OF MOV ON  
(ILUS DAVID, MISHAPS & HAPNES AT FIND QUARTER)  
EXAMP BOY SHO PROMIS - REGARDLES CIRCUM FIND SUMTH WORTHWHIL  
TAK LIF ONE STEP AT TIME & ABE LIK THIS  
LEF KNO 4 UNKNO, LEF FREINDS ALL FAMIL 4 UNFAMILIAR  
JURNY 2LAND WH/NO REVEAL LIFTIM PROMS MADE 2HIM  
ABE SET APART FR/ORD INDIVID BY FACT HE NOT SATISFYD  
HE CUD HAV SED- "I'M NOT BOUT 2TRAVL FR/HOMELAND AT 75"  
BUT DIDNT & G ABL 2USE HIM MITELY  
BCUZ ABE TUK G AT HIS WORD, & STEP OUT WE TOL HE DID - BY FAITH  
BY DO THIS, LIF TUK ON 3 DIMENSINS  
HE STEP OUT & BY SO DO, GAV US THREE STEPPING STONES WE NEED  
AS WE WALK W/GOD  
VS 4=NO WHERE READ ABE BARGAIN W/GOD \* I DO THIS, IF U DO THAT  
IT FLAT OUT OBEY W/NO CONDITINS - OBEDIENCE  
(ILUS BOY NO EAT PRUNES, THUNDER STORM)  
G BOSS OUR LIVS & NEED KNO IT  
MUS LET HIM CAL SHOTS DAY BY DAY  
WHTR FINANC, FAMIL RELATSHIPS, JOBS, SKUL ANY CIRCUMS,  
LIK JS MUS SAY-THY WIL B DUN, NOT MINE  
VSS 5-6=2ND STEP STONE - PRESISTENCE  
BUK HEBREWS TOLD - ABE DIDNT LK BAK  
CAN U PICTUR UR MIND LV ALL FAM, COMP & NICE & GO FOREIGN LAND  
W/O CONV & ALL U 4MERLY HAD???  
PICTUR OF ABE;=OUTSID TENT, PACE & SAY-I MIS OLD FREINDS/COMP &  
SARA ANSRS=SAM GO 4ME:DO U THINK I LIK COOK OPEN FIRE, WEN  
MAIDS BAK IN HALL WUD DO IT FOR ME??  
ALL HE HAD WAS PROM FRAG, & HE TRUS/BLIEV & KEEP PLUG DAY BY DAY



THIRD STEP STONE

VS 7=RESULTS

ABE PROMIS ABUND LINEAGE

FR/HIM G WUD PRODUC EVENUL SEED FR/SELC WOMN WHO WUD OVRUM

SATAN & DEFEAT SIN & DETH

NO DATELINE, NUTH SED WHTHR TAK PLAC LIFTIM

BUT ABE ACPT & READ

7B=HE WORSHIP G

ABE ACPT WAT G SAY AT FACE VALU & BLIEV G WUD PRODUC RESULTS

NOT NORMAL = NORMAL IS "SHOW ME" "PRUV IT"

EXAMP GIDEON & ASK 4PRUF

FAITH DEMANDS BLIEV & ACPT

CAN U ACPT ~~WAT~~ G'S CAL ON UR LIF?

CAN U DO WAT HE WANTS & ASKS W/OUT QUEST??

WUD U B WIL WORK LNG/HARD & C LITTL OR NO RESULTS??

(ILUS GRAD BIBL COLEG & CH PLANTING)

G DUZNT ASK US 2B EXTREMELY GFTD 2USE US

NOR DUZ HE REQUIR EDUCATIN

WAT HE DUZ REQUIR IS AVAILBILTY & 2B WIL 2STEP OUT HIS NAME

HE CAN & WIL USE US IF WE WIL TAK 1ST STEP & REPORT 4DUTY

ABE'S FAITH WAS REWARD LNG AFTR PAS THIS ERTHL SCENE

BUT WHIL HE LIV, HE LIV FOR GOD

R WE WIL 2B ACPT G'S INVITATIN 2B USED AS STP STONES 4HIM?

STEPPING OUT FOR GOD IS ALWAYS STEPPING UP.

(ILUS Jes Millford & Dad & read buk)

(ILUS Dav, mishaps & hapnes ovr quartr)

Ab & 3-steps w/3-dimensins

1st Step=OPEP

vs 4A=He ACPT & no bargin w/G

(I'm boy & prunes)

2nd Step=PERSISTENCE

vs 5-6=No lk bak

3rd step=RESULTS

vs 7A=lineage

vs 7B=worship G

incident & wat norml

story of Gideon & show me

(ILUS yng man, faith & plant ch in log camp)

Step out w/G is always Step up

# "Stepping Stones"

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

(Ilus Jess Milford & fathr read buk)

this examp suml satisfy wher is & has no intentin of mov on

(Ilus Dav mishaps & hapnes find quartr)

This boy sho prom, no matrr wat circum, no matrr how bleak situ, he yd find sumth worthwhil

Howe lad who tak 1 step at a time

Ab was lik this, 4him ther was lstep at time evn if steps lead in2 unkn

He lef all that familiar, friends, etc., & jurny 2land that was th Bgin of wat G wud reveal evn lng yrs aftr his deth

thing that disting Ab fr/ord individ is fact he no satisfyd

he cud hav sed he not about 2travl fr/hom at advan age 75

Ab was man G was go 2 use 2cary on His plan wh/wudB ult fulfil at lstr time

G nevr tol Ab he wud C evrth cum 2pas that bin prom

So we tol by Scrip=BY FAITH Ab did this & in so do can C lif tuk on 3 dimensins

He step out w/G & in so do gav 2us, Step Stones we need 2walk w/G as wel

FIRST STEP=Obedience

vs 4a=nowher duz say Ab bargin w/G & sed=I'll do this if U wil do this, etc.

It was flat out obed w/no conditins

(Ilus boy & two prunes, thindrstorm)

G is boss our livs & we need 2kno that

**HE** mus cal th/shots as we liv day by day

whethr it finacil, famly relatshps, jobs, or any circum, our re-spons musB lik Js taut us=NOT MY WIL, BUT THINE

SECOND STEPPING STONE=Ab gav us evidenc of Persistenc

vs 5-6=In buk Heb tel us Ab didnt luk bak, he went on

fr yr go fr/wat U kno as comfortbl & nice & tak jurny 2foreign plaw/out all conven U 4merly had=How wud U feel?

I can pictur Ab pace in fr/tent & Sara ask=Wat matrr?

He ansr=I mis all we had, friends, evrth had bak in Ur

Sara ansr=Me 2, I mis cook ther & hav maids do work,

But they no stay in doldrums, it was persistenc wh/kep Ab going

He didnt kno wat all this was lead up 2

all he had was prom fr/G whom he trust/Bliev'd & so kep plug

away day by day

THIRD STEPPING STONE=Results

vs 7=Ab was prom abundan lineage

fr/him G wud produc eventul seed fr/selec woman who wud ovrcum

Satn once & 4all

but ther no datelin givn; ther was nuth sed bout hapn his lifetime

But Ab acpt & read also vs 7=He worship G

2/

Wat G tol Ab was acpt face valu & all that he Bliev was that G wud produc results

this ient norml way of do things

normalcy demans evid insted of blind faith

normalcy demans a Show Me atitud & then I'll Bliev it

Pruv it G & I'll folo wherevr U may lead

Lk at story of Gideon=serv of G & deman G giv sign,

then no acpt sign & ask 4nothr

I no say Gid wrong all this, but faith deman we simply Bliev & acpt wat G giv

Th=Sho Me atitud is one that has stunt mor Xpian growth, in-

itiativ than anyth elce

Can U acpt G's cal on Ur lif & go & do wat He ask w/out questin,

or th/deman 4 His complet stamp of aproval?

Wud U B wil 2work long/hard ~~xx~~ 4 th/Lord & C littl or no results

ovr long period of time?

Ab did this & his exampl teaches us bout faith

(Ilus faith of yng man & church plant in log camp)

G duznt ask 4us 2B extremly gift'd 2use us

nor duz He requir we B th/mos educat'd

Wat He duz requir is we availbl & we R wil 2 step out in His

name

He can & wil use us if we R wil 2tak that 1st step & report 4

duty

Abe's faith was reward lng yrs aftr his pass fr/erthly scene

but whil he liv, he liv 4-God

R we wil 2 acpt G's invitatin 2B use as Stepping Stones 4 Him?

Stepping out 4-G is always Stepping Up



## "Stepping Stones"

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

(Illustration of Jessica Mitford and her aristocratic father)

Jessica Mitford who is an author in her own right tells of her father's library. She said it was enormous. The books had been passed down from generation to generation, but her father never ~~was~~ read a book. As an aristocratic Englishman he simply said, "I read 'White Fang' by Jack London. Good book," he said. "Enjoyed it. Don't see any point in readin' another."

This is an example of someone who is satisfied where he is and has no intention of moving on.

(Illustration of David, his mishaps and his happiness at finding a quarter)

David, a second grader was boarding the bus one morning and was bumped. This created a two inch cut on his cheek. At recess he collided with another boy and two of his teeth were knocked loose. At noon, while sliding on the ice, he fell and broke his wrist. Later at the hospital his father noticed that he was clutching something in his ~~xxxxx~~ good hand. He asked him what it was and David proudly held up a shiny quarter. He said, "I found it on the ground when I fell. This is the first quarter I ever found. This sure is my lucky day."

There is a boy who shows promise. No matter what the circumstances, no matter how bleak the situation he could find something worthwhile. Here is a lad who is taking one step at a time. Abraham was a man like this. For him there was one step at a time even steps leading into the unknown. He left all that was familiar, all of his friends, and he journeyed to a land that was only the beginning of that which ~~xxxxx~~ God would reveal even long years after his death. The thing that distinguishes Abraham from the ordinary individual is the fact that he was not staisfied. He could have said that he was not about to travel from his home and homeland at his advanced age of seventy-five.

Abraham was the man God was going to use to carry on His plan which would ultimately be fulfilled at a later time. God never told Abraham that he would see everything come to pass that God had promised. So we are told from Scripture that "By faith," Abraham did this and in so doing we can see that his life took on three dimensions. He stepped out with God and in so doing gave to us the "Stepping Stones" we need to walk with God as well.

His first step was one of Obedience. Look at the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ 4th verse of this chapter and you see, "So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken unto him." Nowhere does it say that Abraham bargained with God and said, "I'll do this, if you will do this." It was flat out obedience, with no conditions.

(Illustration of little boy and prunes, not eating two)

There is a story of a little boy whose mother served prunes once in a while for dessert. He hated prunes with a purple passion and his mother was always after him to eat them when served. She would use the form of discipline like "God will get angry at you if you don't eat the prunes."

One night she served stewed prunes for dessert and he was down to the last two prunes in his dish. He was determined that nothing was going to make him eat those last two prunes. So the struggle between mother and son began to be waged. She said, "God doesn't like little boys who don't eat their prunes." But he wasn't going to budge and she knew it. So she finally said, "All right, go up to bed this instant. You have been a very bad boy and God will be very angry." A few minutes later a thunderstorm broke loose - lightning flashing all over the sky and thunder clapping loudly. The mother thought the boy would be terribly frightened so she went to his room to comfort him. There he was with his nose pressed against the window saying over and over, "My, my, such a fuss to make over two little prunes."

God is the boss of our lives and we need to know that. We must let Him call the shots as we live day by day. Whether it is financial, family relationships, our jobs, or any circumstance, our response must always be as Jesus taught us, "Thy will be done, not mine."

The second "Stepping Stone" that Abraham gave evidence of is that of Persistence. We read in the 5th and 6th verses, (read these). In the book of Hebrews it tells us that Abraham didn't look back. Can you picture in your mind going from what you know as comfortable and nice and taking a journey to a foreign place without all of the conveniences you formerly had? I can picture Abraham out in front of his tent from time to time pacing back and forth and Sarah asks, "What's wrong Abe?" And he answers, "I miss all our old friends and the conveniences we had back in Ur." And Sarah answers, "Well, the same goes with me. Do you think I like cooking over this open fire when ~~xx~~ my maids would have been doing the cooking back ~~xxx~~ home." But it was persistence that kept Abraham going. He didn't know what all of this was leading up to. All he had was the promise from God whom he trusted and believed and so he kept plugging on day by day.

The third "Stepping Stone" that Abraham gives to us is that of Results. God said to him as we read in the 7th verse, "Unto thy seed will I give this land." Abraham was promised an abundant lineage. From him God would produce the eventual Seed from a selected Woman who would overcome Satan once and for all. There was no dateline given; there was nothing said about whether all of this would come to pass in his lifetime. But Abraham accepted it, and we also read in this 7th verse, "And there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him."

What God had told Abraham was accepted at face value and all that he believed was that God would produce the results. This isn't the normal way of doing things. Normalcy demands evidence instead of blind faith. Normalcy demands a "show me" attitude, and then I'll believe "Prove it God, and I'll follow wherever You may lead." Look at the story of Gideon. Here was a servant of God but in order to believe that God was really in this situation, he asked for a sign from God. When God gave the answer with a sign, Gideon didn't believe it and demanded still another sign. Now I'm not saying that Gideon was all wrong in doing this. But faith demands that we simply believe and accept what God is giving. The ~~xxxxxx~~ "show me" attitude is one that has stunted more Christian initiative than anything else. Can you accept God's call on your life and go and do what He asks of you without question, or the demand for His complete stamp of approval? Would you be willing to work long and hard for the Lord and see little or no results over a period of time? Abraham did and his example teaches us about faith.

(Illustration of graduate of small Mid-western Bible college and church planting)

A graduate of a small midwestern Bible College felt led to take a church planting opportunity in a northern logging camp. He went door to door in the camp and door after door was slammed in his face. He had to hear the taunting of the people, "A Sunday School here? This is a tough place preacher. We don't need a Sunday School." But he persisted. Behind one of those doors was a boy who asked permission to go to Sunday School. And then another boy went as well. Those two boys accepted Christ and both went on to Bible College where one felt called to missions and the other to youth work. The one went to Bangladesh where a recently converted agnostic doctor would establish a hospital. This doctor wrote the book "Daktar," and many people who have read it have accepted Christ.



God also raised the youth worker to national recognition where he has impacted thousands of young lives. Neither of these men are known to us. Their names are not household words. But God has used their faith to produce results and only eternity will reveal just what those results are.

God doesn't ask for us to be extremely gifted to use us. Nor does He require that we be the most educated. What He does require is that we are available and we are willing to step out in His name. He can and will use us if we are willing to take the first step and report for duty. Abraham's faith was rewarded long years after his passing from the earthly scene. But while he lived, he lived for God. Are we willing to accept God's invitation to be used as "Stepping Stones" for Him? Stepping out for God is always Stepping Up."

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor August 7, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and ToniJo Patsy  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Opening Hymn No. 5 "Morning Has Broken"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Our heavenly Father, who by Thy  
love hast made us, and through Thy love hast kept us,  
and in Thy love wouldst make us perfect, we humbly con-  
fess that we have not loved Thee with all our heart and  
soul, and mind, and strength, and that we have not  
loved one another as Christ hath loved us. Thy love is  
in us, but our selfishness hath hindered Thee. Forgive  
what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in  
Thy spirit direct what we shall be; that Thy image may  
come into full glory in us and in all men, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 56 "God Will Take Care of You"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Scripture: Genesis 37: 1-11  
Sermon: "The Friction Faction"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 2 "How Great Thou Art"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mr. & Mrs. Gottlob Kradel in memory of their sisters.  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Mangel will greet the members of our  
congregation and our visitors.  
Ushers for today are Marty Henry, Frank Crawford, Jeff  
Snyder and John Snow.  
Attendance last Sunday was 115 with 16 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today.  
Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital  
this week.  
Hospitalized:  
Dates to Remember:  
August 23rd - Red Cross Blood Drive in Rehoboth Hall  
from 1 to 5 P.M. Take a minute and sign  
up or let Ginny know when you would like to  
come. Also if you could bake some cookies  
please see Peg McClymonds.  
August 25th - a meeting of the Lay, Life & Work,  
Hospitality and Activities Committees will  
begin at 7:00 P.M. Please be there!!!  
DICK  
Plans are in the making for our Annual Rally Day Luncheon  
to be held immediately following the service on September  
11th. There has been a change in the menu. We are going  
to have a Salad Luncheon, so if you would be so kind to  
make a salad please contact Marilyn Snyder. More details  
to come, but sign up now to donate a salad.  
September is dessert month for us to help out Meals on  
Wheels. If you would like to bake and donate something,  
please check the list of what is needed that is hanging  
in the Narthex or see Joan Campbell.  
LITURGISTS are needed for the next four weeks. If you  
would like to assist with the service, please let Ginny  
know. We cannot use the same person all the time, so  
please be willing to serve your church. The Pastor will  
leave for his vacation this week, so if there is any  
need you have, please contact Ginny so she may help you  
out.  
Furnace fund receipts from last Sunday totalled \$120.00.  
Keep up the good work, we can do it!!!  
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 9, 1994

PRELUDE  
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

BOOKLETS - BACK TABLE

MARCY LTH  
WED. BOBBIE & CHAD

\*HYMN  
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN  
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 37:1-11  
SERMON: "THE FRICTION FACTION" - J. PAUL RUTLER  
\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

RICH - HOUSE BUNCHED

MARY

UNUSUAL - HELEN - TAMMY JEAN

BILL

JEFF - OPERATION

OBEYED TUF NO MATTER WAT AGE  
THER IS ALWAYS THAT WHICH WE SHUD DO,  
& THER IS ALWAYS WAT WE CUD DO,  
BUT IT SHUD ALWAYS B B4 WE DO ANYTH WE ASK=WAT DUZ G WANT ME 2D  
THRU ALL JOS WEN THRU  
WATEVR MAY BIN HIS DISCOURAG, DESPAIR, HE CAM 2PT REALIZ HIS  
LIF EXPERIENS PRE 4 JOB HAD IN EGYPT  
JOS BROS THOT BROTHR JOS WUD TURN ON THEM & PAY BAK  
BUT CHAP 50:19-20 JOS SPK 2THEM

ALTHO G USE JOS MITELY & APEAR JOS WUDB TH/ONE THRU WHOM G'S  
PLAN WUD FULFIL,  
G USE CIRCUMS 2CONFOUND SATAN & FULFIL PLAN THRU JOS BRO JUDAH  
G SHOWD HIS SVOERTY THRU ALL THIS,  
& HE REVEAL WAT HE SEEKS FR/THOZ WHO R HIS  
JOS MAY NOT BIN TH/ULTIMAT ONE, BUT HE WAS CHOZ 2SERV PURP  
JOS LITTL GIRL & PAY 4PRESENT "ALL AT ONCE"  
THER THOZ FEEL SAM BOUT RITUSNES  
SINC NOT GET ALL AT ONCE, WATS USE OF TRYING???  
BUT RITUSNES IS GROWING DAY BY DAY  
AS WE LIV EA DAY, WE STRIV 2B RITUS, BUT NEVR HAV IT ALL AT ON  
(ILUS JOHN NEWTON & HIS PRAYER)  
AS WE LIV CUR LIVS WE MAY NOT B ABL 2COMPLETELY SAY - BY GRAC OF  
G I AM WAT I AM, BCUZ WE MAY FEEL WE R NOT WAT WE SHUD B  
BUT G INVITES US 2STEP 4TH & FOLLO OUR SAV JS XP & SEEK AFTR  
RITUSNES  
WE CAN ONLY DO THAT ONE STEP AT A TIME  
W/APOS P WE 2MAY SAY AS WE FIND RECORD 2 COR 4:7-11

SCRIP: GEN 37:1-11; SERMON: "THE FRICTION FACTION"

(ILUS LATIN POET QUOTE & LAWS)

LAW & LAWS BIN W/MANK SINC BGIN TIME

AT BGIN G SPCK AD/EVE,GAV GUIDLINS & THEY BROK

DWN 2TODAY THER STIL LAWS & MANY UNWRITTN & THIS TRU IF PERSN

BLIEVR AS SCRIP PT OUT THIS MORN

37 BGIN HISTRY JOS & IT BGIN:

VS 2=JOS SHAR SHEP DUTYS,BUT NOT EVIL ACTINS/DEEDS OF BROS

JOS TOL FATHR & CAN C JOS HAD DESIR 2B RITUS

BCUZ JOS RITUSNES HE WAS IN OPOSITIN 2UNRITUSNES & CAUS TRUBI

ONE LESSN WE SHUD ALL LERN IS=2LIV RITUSLY DUZNT GARAN TRUBL-FRE

IN FAC,RITUSNES INDUKES CRISIS BCUZ LIV IN DOMAIN G THIS WORLD

OUR LEVS AS XPIANS R SPENT SWIM AGIN GRAIN=SWIM UPSTREAM

2LIV AS XPIAN SEEK 2B RITUSWIN UNRITUS WORL GREAT FRICTIN

THOS WHO UNRITUS RESEN B REMIN OF IT R A FACTION AGIN XPIANTY

THUS HAV=FRICITION FACTION & UNWRIT LAW XPIANS MUS LIV WITH/BY

WORL MADEUP RITUS/UNRITUS:SAVED/UNSAVED & NO MDDL GR

EA US ONE SIDE OR OTHR,WE MAK THAT CHOIC

(EXAMPL XPIANS & CONFLIC THIS & THUS = SILENT XPIANS)(ILUS CP)

JOS NOT SILENT BLIEVR & THIS CAUS FRICTIN AGIN EACFIN OF BROS

(EXAMPL OF JOS AS CHIEF ADVERSARY OF SATANS PLOT-KIL SEED/WOMAN)

CHAP 28:13-15

chap 28:13-15

AT PT IN CHAP 37 jacob had 12 SONS

ONLY ONE THZ SONS STANS 4TH AS B RITUS

THIS ONE CUDB TH/ONE FR/WHOM TH/ONE SEED WUD CUM FROM

IN FAC, HE CUD EVN B TH/MESSIAH

THUS BGIN TH/STRUG SATAN HAD W/THIS SON THAT CUD ELIMINAT HIM

FR/PROM G SED WUD FULFIL

PERHAPS SATAN CUD EXTERMNAT THAT PROM AT THIS PT

WAT JOS WENT THRU CUDNT HELP BUT MAK DISCOURAG

1ST STUD AGIN BROS & WAS HONSE & WAT REWARD???

WUD JOS HAV ACTD AS DID IF KNU END RESULT??

I THINK SO

HE WAS G'S MAN & WUD HAV OBEYED NO MATTR WAT

THIS IS WAT G WANTS

EA CIRCUM,EA INCIDENT OF LIF DEMAN OBED

WE MAY GRUMBL,BUT IF WE TRU 2 GOD,WE WIL OBEY

(ILUS TEEN AGER & WISDOM OF PARENTS)

(Ilus Law, Manilius - other)

37:2=Jes & bros

stance unpop & invol Frictin & agin Factin  
(swim upstream)

Silent Xpians - Ilus bukster

5:1-5=explain

5:1-5=explain

5:1-5=explain

Mesag Gen - Seed-Messiah

28:13-15=prom 2 Jacob

Joseph reward - G sez=Nax Gud boy Joe,now I'll

sell U in2 Egypt

(Ilus teen-ager & parents)

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants

Obed wat G wants



# "The Friction Faction"

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11

(Ilus Manilius Latin poet &=All things obey fixed laws")

(Ilus bout legal experts & laws)

Laws & laws hav bin w/mank sinc Bgin of tim

4evn bak in Bgin G spk Ad/Ev gav gidlins 4ther livs wh/they so quickly brok

as fr/thoz erly Bgins of law we find ther so many unwritn laws wh/fole us evn 2day

this especil tru if persn is Blievr as Scrip pt out this morn

chap 37 Gen Bgin histry Jos & 1st thing pt out fnd vs 2=READ

Jos shar shep dutys w/bros,but ne shar evil actins/deeds of bro.

watevr deeds wer,Jos tol fathr Jacob bout them

fr/this very easly determ Jos had desir 4 ritusnes

thus,it fr/this conclusin all bout 2hapn 2Jos is mor intriguing

Jos go 2B displac fr/famly,sold 2liv forein land & b desert

unjusly in fereign prsn

but in ea instanc it wilB his ritusnes wil bring this bout

If ther l leas ea us shud lern erly in Xpian livs,it fac ritusnes

duzat garantee a trubl free lif

ritusnes in fac,oft induces crisis if 4 no othr reasn that liv

in demain of god of this worl-Satn

our livs as Xpians are spent swin agin grain,or swim upstream

Th/lif of a Xpian seek 2liv & B ritus in an evil/ungedly sociaty

creates fridtin in th/livs of th/unritus who then in turn seek

2thro off this sorc wh/caus ther convictin that ther livs R not

rite

We cud then cal this=Frictin Factin wh/unwrit law all Xpians

mus liv w/& by

th/worl made up of ritus & unritus=th/savd & unsavd

ther is no midl grnd

U R eithr on 1 sid or th/othr,ea us mus mak choic

unfortunatly ther R 2many who want 2B Xpians,but they only

want th/gud lif

& sinc stan 4 Js Xp in an ungedly sociaty is unpeplr 2say th

leas,& sinc it bring probs,we hav 2many silent Xpians,Xpians

who wil not stan up & B countd

Jos,son of Jacob was not such a man

he knu wen stud agin evil bros they wud seek 2="get evn"

he knu his stanc was unpop,that it involv frictin & he was

encountr factin wh/wud retaliat;but he stud firm 4-G

So wat duz his stan tel us?

That it foolish 2swim upstream? 2fite agin injustic,

& evil & wrong?

(Exempl of many pso sed=No fite battl agin bukster,ne can win,

etx,& many thez coments fr/se cal-Xpian people)

read lettrs 2edter & C wat smears/untruths sed bout=do-guddrs

Yet mos thez writrs ne kno filth/corruptin tak plac in that so

cal=littl concret blok bldg cles & destroy by thez "Xpians"

2/

But G nevr sed our strugls wudB easy if walk w/Him

P pen words of G in Romans 5:1-5=READ

If U no kno truth thez words then perhap U nevr bin involv in

fite agin evil & wrong

I urg ea U 2get involv 2corec wrong,2eradicat evil wher exist

I' s then U wil kno th/trib that cum w/that stanc

l U wil also lern th/patenc only G can giv,that at sumtim in

futur wil blosom in victry

& then U wil rejoic & say=Thank G it was worth it all

if we vu Jos lif fr/stanpt of mesag of Gen wh/we hav bin lk at,

we can C Jos qualifyd 2Bcum th chief adversary of Satns plot

Jacob had receiv th/xm prom of th/cum Mesiah=28:13-15=READ

Jacob now has 12 sons & only 1 thoz sens stanout as B ritus &

this l cudB th/one fr/whom th/one Seed wud cum from

It may evnB he is th/Mesiah

thus Bgin th/strugl Satn has w/this son that cud easly eliminat

him fr/that prom G sed He wud fulfil & perhap Satn cud exterminat

that prom at this pt

Wat Jos went thru cudnt help but mak his discourag w/lif

1st=stud agin bros & was hones & wat was reward?

G sed 2 Jos=Gud boy Joe,now I'll sel U in2 Egypt

wud he hav act that way if knu end resul was sepratin fr/ faml;

& slavery in Egypt?

I think he wud hav Bcuz he was G's man & he wud hav obey no matt

wat

this wat G wants

we kno wat end resul wilB many times,but also kno situ deman

obed,we may grumbl,but if tru 2-G & wat He want,we obey

(Ilus teen-ager & strict parents,party & result ther wisdom)

Obed is tuf,ne matt wat age U R,Bcuz ther alway wat we shud do

& ther is alway wat we cud do - But wat duz G WANT ME 2 DO?

u all conflic Jos went thru,watevr may bin his feels of dis-

courag & despair,he cam 2pt he realiz all his lif experts had

prep him 4 job he had in Egypt

His bros Bliev aftr deth fathr Jacob,Jos wud turn on them 4

wat they had dun

Gen 50:19-20=READ

alth G use Jos mitely it apear thru Jos G's plan wud tak plac,

G use thez wircum 2confound Satn & fulfil plan thru Jos bros

Judah

G use His sovrnty thru all this,but He sho wat He seek fr/thoz

who R His

Jos maynot bin selec as specil one of bros,but whil liv,he liv

4-G & G reveal He desir ritunes fr/ His servs

(Ilus little girl & pay 4present all at once)

ther R thoz who feel this bout ritusnes,& Bcuz ne posibl,say=Wats

use?

But that wrong atitud Bcuz ritunes is a gro day by day think jus

lik living

we seek 2liv ritusly day by day,step by step  
 we nevr hav it all at once  
 (Ilus Jn Newton & his prayr prelude)  
 As we face lif we maynot B abl 2say=By Grac of G I  
 am wat I am,Bcua we may feel we R not wat we shudB  
 But G invits us 2step 4th & fole our Sav Js Xp &  
 seek aftr ritusnes  
 We can only do that lstep at time & w/Apes P we  
 too may say=2 Cor 4:7-11

ON LIST:

DATE:

DAILY LOG SHEET

Artz, F.

Connelly, J.

Dodds, C.  
 Dowell V.

Johnson, K.

Leri, R.

Marzullo, M.

Mast, M.

McKnight, J.

Miller, N.

Gen 50:19-20

(Ilus littl girl & stor wher can pay 4 all at once

Ritusnes is day/day gro proces

(Ilus Jn Newton)

& writr Amaz Grac 2-5 yrs B4 deth  
 frend tak 2brkfst

Almes blind,no read wud eat,read Bibl,pray

this day no pray,then sed:

By th/Grac of G I am wat I am=was reading

He sed: I am not wat I ~~want~~ ought 2B!

How imperf & deficint I am!

I am not wat I wish 2B! althe I abher that which

is evil & wud cleav 2wat is gud!

I am not wat I hep 2B.but seem I shalB out of

mortality & w/it all sin & imperfectin!

The I am not wat I ought 2B,

nor wat I wish 2B, nor yet, wat I hope 2B,

I can truly say I am not wat I lnce was:

a slav 2 sin & Satn.

I can hartly join w/Apestl & acknowledg by th/Gra

of G,I am wat I am

then aftr short paus,Now,let us pray

2 Cor 4:7-11



## "The Friction Faction"

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11

(Illustration of definition of law)

It was Manilius, a Latin poet who said, "All things obey fixed laws"

Someone else has written, "Legal experts will tell you that one of the problems with laws is that there are too many of them. Legislative dockets are constantly bulging with bills and amendments, and amendments to the amendments straining to be enacted into law.

To aggravate the problem, there are thousands upon thousands of old laws kept on the books which have long since lost any semblance of meaning and purpose.

For example, until recently the State of Maryland still had a law on ~~ix~~ the books making it illegal to hold one's nose longer than a second. North Carolina law made it illegal to plow a cotton field with an elephant. In ~~the~~ Portland, Oregon, it has been against the law to roller skate in a public rest room. Inserting pennies in your ear was a violation of Hawaii law. A Kentucky law prohibited appearing on a highway in a bathing suit unless you were carrying a club. One can only wonder what some future historian will make of that one.

It is more difficult, it seems, to remove a silly or outmoded law from the books than to enact one. A society devoted to a system of law must guard against the dangers of excessive legalism - the propensity to approach every human ~~xxx~~ problem, every human aberration, every human endeavor, legalistically.

Law and laws have been with mankind since the beginning of time. For even back in the beginning God speaking to Adam and Eve gave them guidelines for their lives which they so quickly broke. Thus it is that from those early beginnings of law we find that there are also many unwritten laws which follow us even today. This is especially true if a person is a believer as our Scripture points out this morning.

Chapter 37 of Genesis begins the history of Joseph and the first thing which is pointed out to us is found in the 2nd verse. (Read verse 2). Joseph shared shepherding duties with his brothers, but Joseph didn't share the evil actions and deeds of his brothers. Whatever those deeds were, Joseph told his Father Jacob about them. From this we can very easily determine that Joseph had the desire to seek after righteousness. Thus, it is from this conclusion that all that is about to happen to Joseph is more intriguing. Joseph is going to be displaced from his family, sold to live in a foreign land, and be deserted unjustly in a foreign prison. But in each instance it will be his righteousness that will bring this about.

If there is one lesson each one of us should learn early in our Christian lives, it is the fact that righteousness does not guarantee a trouble-free life. Righteousness in fact, often induces crisis if for no other reason than the reality that we live in the domain of the god of this world, Satan. Our lives as Christians are spent swimming against the grain. We are swimming upstream. The life of a Christian seeking to live and be righteous in an evil and unrighteous society creates Friction in the lives of the Unrighteous who then in turn seek to throw off this source which is causing their conviction that their lives are not right. We could simply then call this, "The Friction Faction" which is an unwritten law all Christians must live with and live by. The world is made up of the Righteous and the unrighteous; the Saved and the unsaved. There is no middle ground! You are either on one side or the other. Each of us must make that choice. But unfortunately, there are too many who want to be Christians, but they only want the good life. And since standing for Jesus Christ in an ungodly society is unpopular to say the least, And it brings problems, we have too many silent Christians; Christians who will not stand up and be counted. Joseph, the son of Jacob was not such a man. He knew that when he stood against his evil brothers, they would seek to



get even." He knew his stance was unpopular, that it involved "Friction," and he was encountering a "Faction" which would retaliate, but he stood firm for God. So what does his stance tell us? That it is foolishness to swim upstream, to fight against injustice, and evil and wrong? I wish I had received money from every person in our Butler area who told us that we were wasting our time trying to rid Butler County of the adult bookstore, because, "You can't win, you can't beat the system." And many of these comments were from so called "Fellow-Christians." Read the letters to the editor and see the smears and the untruths being printed against any who were and are a part of the Butler County Citizens For Decency. Many of these writers have no idea of the filth and corruption that took place in that so called, "Little concrete block building that we picked on." But God never said our struggles would be easy when we seek to walk with Him. Paul pens the words of God in his letter to the Romans chapter 5, Listen to what he says, (read verses 1 through 5, explain the verses, and the word "hope"). If you don't know the truth of these words then perhaps you have never been involved in a fight against evil and wrong. I urge each of you to get involved to correct wrong, to eradicate evil wherever it exists. It is then you will know the tribulation that comes from that stance. But you will also learn the patience that only God can give that at sometime in the future will blossom into victory. And then you will rejoice and say, "Thank God, it was worth it all."

If we view Joseph's life from the standpoint of the message of Genesis which we have been looking at we can see that Joseph qualified to become the chief adversary of Satan's plot. Jacob had received the promise of the coming Messiah and this is recorded in the 28th chapter of Genesis verses 13 through 15, (read these). Jacob now has 12 sons and only one of those sons stand out as being righteous and this one could be the one from whom the ONE seed would come. It may even be he is the Messiah. Thus begins the struggle that Satan has with this son that could easily eliminate him from that promise God said He would fulfill and perhaps Satan could exterminate that promise at this point.

What Joseph went through couldn't help but make him discouraged with life. First, he stood against his brothers and was honest, and what was his reward? God said to Joseph, "Good boy, Joseph, now I'll sell you into Egypt." Would Joseph have acted as he did if he knew that the end result was separation ~~and slavery~~ from his family and slavery in Egypt? I think he was God's man and would have obeyed no matter what. This is what God wants. We know what the end result will be many times. But we also know that the situation demands obedience. We may grumble, but if we are true to what God wants we will obey.

(Illustration of teen-ager and her strict parents)

A teen-ager spoke to her pastor one Sunday and complained how restrictive her parents were. She said they would not permit her to go to aptry that next Friday night. All of her friends would be there. "Didn't they trust her?", she asked. "After all, I'm not a little kid anymore," she said. The pastor sympathized with her and told her that at times life seemed to be tough, but her duty was to obey her parents and they had reasons for not letting her go.

The next Sunday she came to the minister and said, "Guess what?" He said, "Your parents let you go to the party." She said, "No, they didn't. And I'm glad now that ~~my~~<sup>my</sup> ~~parents~~<sup>parents</sup> wouldn't let me go. Some of the kids brought drugs and the booze flowed. The party got loud and wild. The neighbors called the police and some of the kids were arrested. I'm glad my parents knew what was best for me."



Obedience is tough no matter what age you are. There is always that which we SHOULD do, and there is always what we COULD do. What does God want me to do?

Through all of the conflicts that Joseph went through, ~~xx~~ whatever may have been his feelings of discouragement and despair he came to the point that he realized that all of his life experiences prepared him for the job he held in Egypt. His brothers believed that after Jacob was dead, Joseph would turn on them and pay them back for what they had done to him. But in the 50th chapter Joseph speaks to them and he says as we read in the 19th and 20th verses, (read these).

Although God used Joseph mightily and it appeared it would be through Joseph that God's plan would take place, God used these circumstances to confound Satan and fulfill that plan through Joseph's brother Judah. God showed His sovereignty through all of this but He also revealed what He seeks from those who are His. Joseph may not have been the selected special one of his brothers, but while he lived, he lived for God and revealed that God desires righteousness from His servants.

(Illustration of little girl and paying for a present "All at once")

A little girl had saved up enough money to buy her father a present for his birthday. But she told her mother she was concerned about one thing. She said, "I can't be going downtown every month to make payments. Is there a store where they will let you pay ~~for~~ the whole thing at once?"

There are those who seem to feel this way about righteousness. We <sup>WANT TO</sup> ~~xxxx~~ have it all, all at once, and since I don't seem to have it, what's the use in trying?" But that is the wrong attitude. Righteousness is a growing, day by day thing just like living. As we live each day we must seek to live righteously, we never have it all, all at once.

(Illustration of John Newton the writer of "Amazing Grace" and his prayer prelude)

Two ~~xxx~~ or three years before the death of John Newton, the preacher who wrote the hymn, "Amazing Grace," a friend called to have breakfast with him. His sight was now almost gone and he was no longer able to read. Their custom always was that after they had eaten, they would read a portion of the Word of God and then John Newton would make a few remarks about the text and then they would pray together. That day the Scripture read was, "By the grace of God I am what I am." After it was read by his friend, Newton didn't say a word. Finally, after some silence he said, "I am not what I ought to be! How imperfect and deficient I am! I am not what I wish to be, although I abhor that which is evil and would cleave to what is good! I am not what I hope to be, but soon I shall be out of mortality, and with it all sin and imperfection. Though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor yet what I hope to be, I can truly say I am not what I once was: a slave to sin and Satan. I can heartily join with the Apostle and acknowledge that by the grace of God I am what I am!" Then after a short pause, he said, "Now, let us pray."

As we face life we may not be able to completely say, "By the grace of God, I am what I am," because we may feel we are not what we should be. But God invites us to step forth and follow our Savior Jesus Christ and seek after righteousness. We can only do that one step at a time. With the Apostle Paul we too may say as we find recorded in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians the 4th chapter, verses 7 through 11, (read these verses).

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Keith Walker, Guest Speaker September 11, 1988  
Rev. Ralph Link, Liturgist  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Dave Brinker and Wendy Norman  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
Prelude "Invocation"  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Opening Hymn No. 240 "Fairest Lord Jesus"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, we come knowing that  
we have fallen and failed in so many ways. Sometimes  
we have tried to hide from you, from one another, and  
even from ourselves. There have been times when we  
have drawn back from the right because it was a  
difficult, crucifying experience. Father we seek  
strength to overcome our weakness, our sin, and our  
doubt of your help. Forgive us, and make us whole,  
for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Leader - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 400 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory "For God So Loved The World"  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Promotion of Sunday School Students  
Scripture: Luke 22: 31-32  
Sermon: "Enemy Watch"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 623 "The Longer I Serve Him"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude "March in B Flat"  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Kathy Goda has placed the beautiful flowers on the  
altar in memory of her father George Walrond.  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pflugh will greet our members and guests at  
the door this morning.  
Ushering today will be Helen Riemer, Phyllis Tait, Alma  
Dally and Shirley Thompson.  
Attendance last Sunday was 97 with 12 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Myra Colgate.  
Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the  
hospital this week.  
Hospitalized: Ben Hockenberry in BMH *DALE UNCLE*  
*MRS. TAIT*  
SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING DATES AND ACTIVITIES:  
Sept. 13 - Teachers of the Sunday School will meet at  
6:45 for prayer time and their meeting will  
begin at 7:00 P.M.  
15 - Youth Choir at 6:15 and Chancel Choir at 7  
UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST:  
Sept. 19 - The Holiday Shopping Expo from 7 to 9 P.M.  
sponsored by the Youth will be held in  
Rehoboth Hall. Sure hope you will come out  
and support this project. Bring a friend  
or two, relatives or neighbors.  
Baked Goods for Meals on Wheels can be brought in on Sunday  
September 18th. See the Newsletter for more details,  
or call Joan Campbell.  
Installation of the officers for the Women's Fellowship will  
be next Sunday during the worship service.  
Van driver for Sunday September 18th will be Marty Henry.  
We wish to express our sincere thanks to Rev. Keith Walker  
for spending his weekend with us. He was a big part of  
the Board Retreat and is bringing us the message of  
Jesus this morning.  
Men! If you are interested in being part of a Monday  
morning Bible Study breakfast, there is a flier posted  
in the Narthex for you.  
Missionaries from Turkey will be at Bethany U.C.C. on  
Saturday September 17th for an interesting program on  
missionary work. If you are interested in going there  
are more details on the flier posted in the Narthex.  
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor September 18, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Lori Weisenstein  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Opening Hymn No. 325 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God, we thank you for the Church. But we know that as members of this body we have not always been as we should be. We have accepted your Word and it has not moved us. We have heard your message preached, and it is always meant for another person, and not me. We have partaken of the Lord's Supper and have not really wanted to give up some of our petty little sins. We have asked for forgiveness, but have been unwilling to give it to others. O God, come to us anew today. Cover us with your love and forgive our wayward acts of sin and disobedience. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 357 "O for a Heart to Praise My God"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Installation of Officers of Women's Fellowship  
Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16: 1-9  
Sermon: "Heart - Turn"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 317 "Let's Just Praise the Lord"

\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs. Genevieve Nohach and Beverly in memory of Loved Ones.  
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Link will greet our members and our guests at the door this morning.  
Members of the Youth Group will be Ushering today.  
Attendance last Sunday was 105 with 12 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.  
Bill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the hospital this week.  
Hospitalized:  
Van driver for September 25th will be Rob Vinroe.  
UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:  
Sept. 19th - Holiday Shopping Expo from 7 to 9 P.M.  
Monday evening. Details on the flyer.  
Sept. 22nd - Chancel Choir practice at 7 and Youth practice at 6:15  
If you forgot to bring your baked goods for Meals on Wheels today, you may do so tomorrow morning by 9 A.M.  
The Mental Health Association is offering a workshop on Special Education Rights for parents to help understand these rights and the laws that support Special Education. For more details see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex.  
The Center on Rape and Assault is looking for volunteers for the Child Assault Prevention program. If you are interested, see the notice on the bulletin board.  
The Butler County Community College is having "Open House" for adults interested in returning to school. See details on the flyer in the Narthex.  
CONGREGATIONAL DINNER will be held next Sunday, September 25th at 5:30 P.M. Bring a tureen and your place setting. Meat, dessert and beverage will be provided. Lay, Life and Work Committee is in charge. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to the God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 16, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

BOOKLETS ON BACK TABLE - TAKE & USE

\*HYMN

PRAYER/OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: 2 CHRONICLES 16-1-9

SERMON: "HEART-TURN"

\*HYMN

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*10/16/94 - 1st LAW - CHILDRN*

SCRIP: 2 CHRON 16:1-9; SERM: "HEART-TURN"

(ILUS MAN PARK CAR & NOTE ON WINDSHIELD)

CALLS 4SELF-EXAM-FAD BUKS/TAPES/ETC

HOW 2B LIK JS, A XPIAN, ETC

PROGS LIK THEZ MAK LIK CHOC EASTR BUNNY-NICE OUT, HOLLIC  
REAL XPIANTY BGIN ON INSID - ~~MT 23:25-28~~

JS TAUT-GET RT W/GOD-OUT OF HART MOUTH SPK

WAT IN HART WAT CUMS OUT-JUS HOW GET HART RT W/GOD??

ASA=3RD K JUD-REIGN 41 YRS -1st 10YR PEAC RELIG REFORM

11TH ~~X~~ ETHIO INVAD & TURN 2 GOD & GIV VICTRY

16TH YR ISR INVAD

VS 1A=36TH YR DIVID KINGDM

VS 1B=ASA CUTOFF & NOW WAT DO??

VSS 2-3=GAV OWN WELTH, & G'S WELTH & HIRED SYRIA

VSS 4-5=ASA BLIEV HAD WON VICTRY, ISR DEFEAT

VS 6=SET PEOP'L 2WORK, CRISIS OVR

VSS 7-9=LORD SPOK 2ASA THRU PROPH-HE NOT RITE W/LORD

VS 10=ASA TUK ANGR OUT ON PROPH & PEOP'L INSTED IK SELF

WHER ONCE SOT G, DIRE CIRCUM THOT CUD DO HIMSELF

WAT DUZ G SAY??

VS 9=G WANTS OUR HARTS 2B COMPLETELY HIS

HOW R HARTS DAILY LIF? IN WORSH?

NEIL DIAMOND & SONG=TURN ON UR HARTLITE

EA NEED DO THAT-PERFORM HART SURGRY - LK DEEP W/IN

(ILUS SPLINTER, BRITE LIGHT & SEWN ON OUTSIDE FINGER)

THIS ANALOGY OF OUR LIVS, WE CAN LK CLOSLY, BUT NO C

LIK G SEES - HE TURNS ON HARTLITE & C WAT WE OVRLK

(ILUS ARTIST CAMILLO & EYES OF CHRIST)

EYES OF SAV ON US EVR DAY OUR LIVS, & CAN LK IN2 HARTS

& C WHTHR RITE W/HIM VS 9A=R OUR HARTS COMPLETELY HIS?

HAV WE TURN ON HARTLITE & LK W/IN? R WE WIL DO HART-

TURN 2DAY & B COMPLETELY HIS??



"Heart-Turn"

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16:1-9

(Ilus man park car & note on windshield=get preg & sual park clos.  
A situ lik this wud mak anyone do self-exam  
perhap if all us did this we no run in2 situatins wher we mus  
squeeze in 2park

B+ self-exam no lagr in vogue we new liv en age of do own thing  
fac, we Bcum xxxxxxxx2 reliant upon all kinds self-help buks  
tapes, records

Nam prob & sumene had writ/film sumth bout it 2help evrcum it  
How 2liv Xpian lif, how 2liv lik Js, how 2avoid sin, etc, etc

But un4tunatly all thez progrms R lik checlat Eastr bunnys

We lk nice on outside, but we helle & empty insid

Real Xpianly Bgins on insid & Xpianly is mattr of B streng fr  
th/insid out

Mt 23:25-28=Ks spk 2Phars, Bcuz He knu they wer helle

they knu Law; had aners; made rt movs; had gud outward appearance  
but they lackd th/rt interior

Wat was it Js was try teach this pt?

Thruout His erthly minstry, Js constntly taut persn need 2get hart  
rt w/G

He sed=OUT OF TH/ABUNDANC OF TH/HART TH/MOUTH SPEAKETH

He was say, wat was in hart was wat cam out in daily liv

Now if this is pt we mus ponder, jus hew get harts rt w/G?

We hav gud illus how man turn hart fr/G evn the knu othwise

Asa 3rd K of Jud; reign 41 yrs; 1st 10 yrs reign had period of pea  
wh/he set4th a relig reform

set 2get rid heathn idola in th/land

in 11th yr Jud invad by Ethippia & Asa turn evr 2-G 4help & G  
giv th/victory

But then dur 16th yr his reign Isr-N Kingdm invad Jud

vs 1A=this was 36th yr of divd Kingdm & acul 16th yr his reign

vs Asa cut off fr/outsid worl & fr/thoz who cud help agin Isr

vs 4-3=He hir Ben-hadad K Syria w/money of his & of G

vs 4-5=this result & K Asa Bliev he won victory & Isr defeatd

vs 6=set peopl 2work Bcuz he vctor

vs 7-9=but I had sumth 2say bout this

vs 10=Asa awar he not rt w/G & do wat anyone duz-tak out on wrong

peo, & especil proph of G Bcuz he sho Asa up 4wat he was

vs 12=end of lif simlar 2this

wher lnce turn 2-G 4all help in wat considr dire circum he deem

this instanc men bettr able 2help

He refus keep hart rt w/ith God

& do U C wat G say bout this? =lk at vs 9-READ THIS VERSE

G wants our harts 2B complit His & this isnt a new I wil, now I  
went deal

it is 2B evry circum of lif G is set 4guidanc/help

Our harts R 2B rt w/G all th/time

How is our harts wen we hav mor month lef at end our mony?

Do we cut G out of our stewship responsibltys?

2/

B honest now! Wil we acpt B dishones in ordr 2get ahead?

Wil we seek our own way insted of G's way Bcuz it easier?

Out tru hart conditin shows wen chips R dwn

Jus how do we act/react?

Our harts R always on display whthr want 2Bliev or not

I v our harts sho is how we worsh G

I seen all kinds of wors & we sho harts by hew wors or do  
not wors on any givn Sundy

Hav U evr cum 2-Ch & U not in bes mood Bcuz mad wif 4get sew buto

Or kids tuk 2long 2dres? Or argu w/Wif? & U sit dwn detrain ne  
one or nuth go 2 chang Ur foul mood?

Did U realy wors G that day?

MayB anouncmen sets U off=Giv 2that outfit? No way! & U grump thr

Or mayB hymns all hav 4vss & U Bliev why not sing 1 vs & get evr  
with, I no lik 2sing anyhow

Or th/offring isnt dun way U think shudB dun; Serm 2long; ch not  
ovr at noon, etc, etc.

I sur we all hav sum pet peev keep us fr/wor G & wat duz that  
say bout our harts?

Ther poplr song=Turn on Ur Hartlite & ea us need 2do that

I'd lik 2seges ea us 2day get involv in hart-surgry, our own  
a kind of do-it-Urself thing; Now I no advocat tak saalpels in  
hand and mak cut cros chest & expos harts

I'm advocat we lk deep within & lk wher harts R in relatin 2-G

(Ilus splinter & strong lite & stil no C splintr)

I Bliev this analgy our livs

We can lk very closly at our harts but we no C as G c's them

G turns on His hart-lite & He c's wat we ovrluk

(Ilus Camillo artist & eyes of Jesus)

Th.eyes of th/Sav R upon us ea day our livs

He can lk in2 our harts & He can C whthr we rt w/Him

1 writr Chronicles tels us=READ VS 9

Is Ur hart completly His?

Hav U turnd on Ur hartlite & lookd within?

R U wil 2do a Hart-Turn this day & B completly His?

I invit U 2do so so that we may all enjoy that specil relat-  
ship wh/ours thru Js Xp

(Ilus man park car & note windshield)  
I HOP ONE THEZ DAYS U GET PREG & SUMONE PARKS THAT  
CLOSE TO YOU

M\*

Mt 3:25-28 - Js & Phars

How get rt w/G?

Asa 3rd K Jud

reign 41 yrs

1st 10yrs peac & relig reform

11th yr Ethiopia invad-turn 2-G & G giv victry

16th yr ISR invad

vs 1A=36th yr Div Kingdm

vs 1B=

vss 2-3

vss 4-5

vs 6

vss 7-9

vs 10

vs 12

Harts display Sundy in worsh:

badmood;announc;hymns;offr;serm;heur noon

Song=Turn On Ur Hart-lite

(Ilus splinter & strong lite)

(Ilus Camillo & painting Js & His eyes)

Is Ur hart completly His?

Hav turn on Hartlite & lk w/in?

R U wil 2do Hart-Turn 2day & B completly His?

I invit U 2do se



## "Heart-Turn"

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16:1-9

(Illustration of man parking car close to others & note on windshield)

A man pulled into the supermarket parking lot, but soon discovered that parking was at a premium. He drove up one lane and down the next and all over that lot and there just wasn't a parking place. Finally, he drove down the last lane and it looked like there was just one spot. But when he got there he discovered that he could pull into the spot but he would be so close to the ~~xxxx~~ car on either side he would really have to squeeze to get out. He parked the car, opened the door and squeezed himself out and was just able to walk between his car and the car next to him. He breathed a sigh of relief and exclaimed, "Boy, I hope one or both of these cars are gone when I come out of the store." He then noted that the car on the passenger side of his car was even closer to his car and he would have had a more difficult time getting out on that side.

The man did his shopping and sure enough when he came out both cars on either side were gone. So he opened the door on the driver's side and put his groceries on the seat and then he noticed a piece of paper on the windshield. It was a note and when he opened it he read "I hope one of these days you get pregnant and someone parks that close to you."

A situation such as this would make anyone do some self-examination. Perhaps if all of us were to do that we wouldn't run into those situations where we have to squeeze to get ourselves in or out of our cars in parking lots. But self-examination is no longer in vogue. We now live in the age of doing your own thing. In fact, we have become so accustomed to this type of thinking that we have become reliant on all kinds of "self-help" books, tapes and records. Name the problem and someone has written or filmed something about it to help us to overcome it. "How to live the Christian life," "How to be like Jesus," "How to avoid sin," and all other sorts of titles are waiting for us to buy them and begin whatever program it is to be the Christians we can and should be.

But unfortunately, all of these programs make us like chocolate Easter bunnies. We look nice on the outside, but we are fragile and hollow inside. Real Christianity begins on the inside. ~~and if xxxxxxxxxx right with God xxxxxxxxxx self help xxxxxxxxxx~~ Christianity is a matter of being strong from the inside out. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus took the Pharisees to task because ~~they xxxxxxxxxx~~ He recognized their problem as being hollow. In the 23rd chapter we read from the 25th through the 28th verses, (read these ~~the inside xxxxxxxxxx~~ They knew the Law; they had the answers; they made all the right moves; and they put on a good outward appearance. But they lacked the right interior. What was it that Jesus was trying to teach in this instance? Throughout His earthly ministry Jesus constantly taught that a person needed to get his heart right with God. He said, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh." He was saying that what was in the heart was what came out of the daily living the person did. Now if this is the point we should ponder, just how do we get our hearts right with God?

We have a good illustration of how a man of God turned his heart from God even though he knew otherwise. ~~Asa xxxxxxxxxx~~ Asa was the 3rd king of Judah. He reigned for 41 years. In the first ten years of his reign there was a period of peace during which he set ~~in~~ forth a religious reform in the land by seeking to get rid of the heathen idols in the land.

In the 11th year of his reign Judah was invaded by the Ethiopians and Asa turned to God for help, and God delivered them and gave Judah the victory.



But then during the 16th year of his reign, Israel, the Northern Kingdom invaded Judah.

Our Scripture read, "In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign," vs 1a, and really this was in the 36th year of the divided kingdom, and it was actually in the 16th year of Asa's reign. It was at this time that, "Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah," vs 1b.

Asa was alarmed because he knew that he was cut off from the outside world and those who could help him to overcome Israel. So in order to defeat Israel, Asa seeks to hire Ben-hadad's army to bail him out. So he sends messengers to Ben-hadad telling him that he is willing to hire him using the silver and gold at his disposal, both his personal wealth, and the wealth of the treasury of the ~~xxxxx~~ Temple, which was the Lord's and he hires the Syrian army to fight against Israel. His request of Ben-hadad was, (read verse 3).

The result of this was, (read verses 4 and 5). So king Asa believed that he had won the victory, Israel had been defeated and so he set his people to work and we read, (read verse 6). But Asa had been doing things his way and had turned from the Lord. So it was that the Lord had something to say to Asa and we read, (read verses 7-9). Asa recognized that he was not right with the Lord and because this was pointed out to him he did the normal thing and got angry and we read, (read verse 10). Asa took his anger out on Hanani and some of his own people instead of looking at himself and turning back to God. The end of his life was very similar to this for we read, (read verse 12).

Where once he had sought God for all of his help, in what he considered a very dire circumstance he deemed that men were capable of handling the situation. He refused to keep his heart right with the Lord. And do you see what God says about this? Look at the 9th verse! "The eyes of the Lord roam to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."

God wants our hearts to be completely His. That isn't a now I will, now I won't deal. It is that in every circumstance of life, God is sought for guidance and help/ Our hearts are right with God all the time. How <sup>ARE</sup> is our hearts when we have more month left at the end of our money? Do we cut out God from our stewardship responsibilities? Be honest now! Will we accept doing something dishonest in order to get ahead? Our true heart condition is demonstrated when the chips are down. Just how do we act or react?

Our hearts are always on display whether we want to believe it or not. One of the ways our hearts show is how we truly worship God. I've seen all kinds of worship and we show our hearts by how we worship, or do not worship God on any given Sunday. Have you ever come to church and perhaps you're not in the best of moods because your wife forgot to sew a button on your shirt, or the kids took too long to get ready, or your argued on the way? Have you ever slumped down into your seat determined that nothing said or done was going to change your foul mood? Did you really worship God that day? Maybe the announcements set you off and the service had not really begun yet. "Give money to that outfit, they'll not get a penny from me, the very idea," and you grump through the rest of the service looking like you swallowed a lemon. Or you look at the hymns and each one of them have four verses. "We'll be here all day just getting through these hymns why can't we just sing one verse and get it over with?", and you don't worship because you don't feel like singing so many verses.



Or the offering isn't done the way you like it, or the sermon is too long, or church goes beyond an hour and doesn't he know we need to get to lunch, and on and on we could go naming each of our pet things which we all have to keep us from giving a loving open heart to our Lord.

There is a popular song that sings, "Turn on your heart-light." Each of us needs to do that. I'd like to suggest that today we each get involved in heart-surgery. Our own heart-surgery. A kind of do-it-yourself thing. Now I'm not advocating that we take scalpels in hand and begin to make a cut across the chest to expose our hearts. I'm advocating that we look deep within and look at where our hearts are in relation to the Lord.

(Illustration of splinter in my finger and strong light)

About ~~16 to 20 years ago~~ 16 to 20 years ago we were living in a parsonage and there were no shelves in the study. So I suggested that if the church would give me permission I would build some bookshelves. So I got the wood and began to build them. They didn't turn out too bad. Even Lloyd laughed at them. But when I had them finished, I sanded them real smooth to get them ready for varnishing. ~~When I came home from church the following Sunday, I took my Bible into the study and as I passed the bookshelf closest to me, I ran my hand over the shelf to feel the smoothness and suddenly I said "ouch" because I had gotten a splinter in my finger. Well I thought that after lunch I would remove it. But I just couldn't get it out, it was too big. So I went to the Emergency Room of Carlisle Hospital and a young intern began to look at my finger. The first thing he did was to focus a very bright light on the finger. He saw the splinter and cut open my finger to remove it. Then after he had removed it, he sewed my finger up, bandaged it and told me what all of this cost me. As each day went by, waiting for the week to get over with so I could have the stitches removed, the finger became sorer and sorer. About the middle of the week I decided I needed to go back to the hospital and show the doctor what he had done. He had removed the splinter all right, but he had also sewed it to my finger with the stitches. But you see the problem was that it was white pine and very light in color. And even under that very strong and powerful light it didn't quite show up right.~~

I believe that this is the analogy of our lives. We can look very closely at our hearts, but we don't truly see them as God sees them. God turns on His "heart-light" and He sees what we overlook.

(Illustration of Camillo the artist and the eyes of Christ)

There was an artist named Camillo who had led a long and sinful life. He painted a picture of Christ and he called it "The Man of Sorrows." But in his painting of the picture he gave the eyes of Jesus such a searching appealing look that he couldn't stand the eyes looking at him and he placed a cover over the painting. He mentioned this to a preacher friend and the preacher's advice was to unveil the painting and let those eyes do their work on him. And those eyes began to do a work on him. He was convicted that he needed to undo every wrong he had done if possible; to tear up any canvas he had painted which even suggested evil; and to make things right where he could. Yet, in his heart there was still no peace. One night he knelt and told Jesus that he wanted what only Jesus could give and he turned his heart over to him. And from that day on, Camillo became a new man.

The eyes of the Savior Jesus Christ are upon us each day of our lives. He can look into our hearts and He can see ~~whether~~ whether we are right with Him. The writer of Chronicles tells us, "The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose hearts are completely His."

Is your heart completely His? Have you turned on your heart-light and looked within? Are you willing to do a "Heart-Turn" this day and be completely His? I invite you to do so, so that we may all enjoy that special relationship which is ours through Jesus Christ.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor September 25, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Kelly Mangel  
+ + + + +  
TURN ON YOUR HEART LIGHT!!!!

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 341 "Come, Thou Almighty King"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) We offer to thee, O Father, "praise for the gift of thy Spirit. We are made aware that your love is given to us in many ways. When we are lonely, when we show unbelief, it is your Spirit that fills us with your truth. And when we burn with hatred, or anger, or selfishness, or greed, it is your Spirit which speaks to us with your love. Forgive us, and may your Spirit live, guide, and direct us in all ways. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."  
\*Kyrle  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 161 "Breathe On Me, Breath of God"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "Lonesome Valley/Swing Low"  
Scripture: Revelation 2: 1-5  
Sermon: "Might Have Been"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 634 "O How I Love Jesus"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benedic

\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Phyllis and Beth Tait to the Glory of God.  
Mrs. Millie Wachsmuth will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.  
Ushering today will be Dick Mangel, Don Kingsley, George Pflugh and Dick Dally.  
Attendance last Sunday was 122 with 14 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.  
Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel are scheduled for hospital visitation this week.  
Van driver for October 2 is Dick Dally.  
Hospitalized:  
SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:  
Monday - 7 P.M. Property Committee will meet and go over the new heating system. Any other person who may be interested may attend as well.  
Thursday - 6:15 Youth Choir 7 P.M. Chancel Choir  
MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:  
Monday Oct. 3rd - Benevolence Committee meets at 7 P.M.  
5th - Council meeting at 7 P.M.  
We will be observing the Lord's Supper next Sunday at the 11:00 A.M. worship service. This is pew communion.  
Soup & Salad will be October 11th. Tickets are now available through the Circle Chairmen or Phyllis Tait. They also need cabbage, onions, carrots, potatoes, and salad tomatoes. Please call them and help them out.  
October 9th service will be dedicated to the new St. Paul's Alzheimers Disease Center. A representative from the home will be here for the service.  
Congregational Dinner is tonight at 5:30 P.M. Meat, dessert and beverage will be provided. Bring along a tureen and table service and join in the fun and fellowship.  
October 16th we will be taking new members into the church. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please let the Pastor or the office know.  
We are looking for a volunteer to help us line up help for in the Nursery each Sunday. We cannot rely on the same people to do it all of the time, so please let the office know if and when you would be willing to serve. Just remember that you relied on someone at one time to care for your children. Lets all work together for this.  
At the close of the worship service the invitation is for any and all to respond to God's leading for your life. This gives each the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 23, 1994

PRELUDE  
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

BOOKLETS ON TABLE IN NARTHEX - TAKE & USE  
HALLOWEEN PART OCT. 29 - 7:00  
YOUNG PEOPLE LOCK-IN NOV 11

ANNUAL MEETING NOV 6 FOLLOWING DAY  
NEW MEMBERS NEXT SUNDAY.

EVANG. SERVICES TONIGHT, MON, TUES  
O HAWKING PARTY

\*HYMN  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN  
SCRIPTURE:: REVELATION 2:1-5  
\*\*\*\*\*XZWX\*\*\*\*\*X  
SERMON: "MIGHT HAVE BEEN" - ST. PAUL'S BUTLER 9/25/94  
\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

(ILUS OF BRIDE TORN/TATTERD = BRIDE OF CHRIST)  
I CERT U & I WUD REACT IN HORROR IF WITNES SUCH A SCENE  
BUT HAV WITNES MANT TIMES  
CAST CHARACTRS:  
TH/BRIDE-CH OF JS XP  
F "HER OF BRIDE-GOD"  
CUM=JS HIMSELF WAIT RECEIV BRIDE HIS CHURCH  
BU WAT HS JS RECEIVD AS HIS BRIDE?? TORN/TATTRED/SPOT/WRINKL,ETC  
CH BIN TORN W/IN & W/OUT  
JS SED-I WIL BILD MY CH & TH/GATES OF HEL SHAL NOT PREV AGIN IT  
CAN UNDRST OPOS FR/W/OUT,BUT NOT W/IN  
BUK REV PT OUT MESAGS TO 7 CH'S FR/JS HIMSELF  
JN WROT DWN & 7 CH'S REP CH'S THEN & DWN THRU YRS  
WIL ONLY LK AT 1ST FOR NOW  
1ST CH AT EPH & P FOUND THIS CH:HE WROT=BWAR GREVUS WOLVS WHO WUD  
CUM IN SHEEP CLOTH & STEAL SHEEP AWAY  
WAT TAUT AGIN TUK PLAC THIS CH OF STRNG BLIEVRS  
EPH STUD CROSRDS OF WORLE=TRADE RTES CAM 2GETHR  
WAS HOME ROMN GOV;HELD ONE OF 7WONDRS OF WORL:TEMPL DIANA THER,  
PEO CUM FR ALL OVR PARTAK PAGN RITES INVOLV IMORALTY GRAN SCALE  
P FND CH:TIM,APOLOS PASTRS:AQUILA/PRISCILA,JN WER MEMBERS  
SO FR/GRT XPIAN HISTRY JS SPCK 2JN & TEL HIM -----  
VS 1=ANGL-MINISTR/PASTR/TEACHR & INDICTMEN AGIN CH,NOT PASTR  
7STARS=7CH'S & HOLDR IS JS  
7CANDLSTKS=7 CH'S,WALK AMONG THEM=JS & THIS INTRODUCTIN  
VSS 2-3=MESAG BGIN & THIS COMENDATIN;THEN JS TEL WAT WRONG,& THEN  
GIV SOLUTIN 2COREC WRONG,FOLLO BY REWARD 4CORECTIN  
I WUD LIK SKIP 4TH VS & CUM BAK TO IT  
VS 5=GET BAK 2ORIG WORK OR WUD EXTING FLAM  
TURN CH BAK TO LORD,PT IN THAT DIREC OR WUDC OUT OF EXISTEN  
VS 6=NICOLAITANS GHOSTICS BLIEV SCUL ONLY IMPORT,BODY DO ANYTHING  
THEZ MEMBERS & JS COMEND 4DISMIS & WEAL W/THEM  
VS 7=SUMATIN THAT WH/2B GIVN BLIEVRS REMAIN TRU 2TH/LORD  
PARADISE=AN EDEN RESTOR W/TREE OF LIFE

THIS SUMATIN JS MESAG 4CH AT EPH  
BUT WAT WRONG W/IT?  
VS 4=WAT WAS 1ST LUV?? DEEP LUV/COMITMENT 2FOLO SAVIOR NO MATTR  
SUMWHER DWN LINE LEF THAT LUV/COMITMENT & WAT WAS IT??  
SPECULATE=INVOLV INTELECTUL COMUNITY  
JN WROT GOSPEL-IN TH/BGIN WAS TH/WORD,& TH/WORD WAS W/GOD & THE  
WORD WAS GOD

WAT HE SAY? EXPL SO GRKS WUD THINK THRU & UNDRST G AMONG MANKIN  
 (ILUS THEOLOGAINS & HOW THEY TALK GR OF BEING, LEAP OF FAITH TO  
 EXPLAIN JS)  
 (ILUS SOMEONE WROTE THEY CONFRONT JS)  
 THIS WAT HAPN 20TH CENT CH  
 INSTED PLAIN SIMPL GOSPEL-INTELECTUL DRIVEL NO ONE UNDRST, INCLU  
 PREACHRS  
 C/ T EPH MAY BIN GILTY MANY THINGS, BUT JS ACUS OF LOSE 1ST LUV  
 WE UNDRST IF MAK CP TO HUMAN SITUATIONS  
 BOY MEET GIRL, LUV, MARAG & RELATINSHIP CHNG OVR YRS  
 (ILUS COMON COLD & WIFE/HUSABAND OVER 7YRS)  
 SHDNT B TH/CASE, BUT QUIT OFT IS  
 (ILUS MAN, WIFE DIES, & OPENS DOOR OF HEARSE)  
 TH/FIRST LUV - IT IS JOY OF SHARE/CARE/HAPNES/DOING FOR EA OTHR  
 AS TIME GOES ON IT BCUMS LUV OF CONVENIENC, NEGLECT, LAK CONCERN  
 HAPPNS IN MARAGS & HAPPNS IN CONGS AS WEL  
 (EXAMPL OF SUMONE ON FIRE 4TH/LORD & FIRE QUENCHED, ARGUING, FIGHT  
 ING W/IN TH/CONG, POWER STRUGGLES, ETC)  
 WAT IS FIRST LUV AS JS POINTS OUT??  
 IT LUV WE EXPER WEN TAK HIM AS L & SAV  
 IT THAT LUV THAT COMPELS US 2LIV 4HIM & SHO THAT LUV BY OUR  
 LIVS & OUR SERVICE  
 DO U HAV THAT 1ST LUV? OR HAS IT GROWN COLD?  
 HAV U EVR HAD IT? HAV U EVR EXPER EMOTINAL WARMTH, FEELING THAT  
 U WANT TO LUV TH/WORLD 4 & BCUZ OF JS XP??  
 WHY NOT REACH OUT & SURENR UR LIF 2JS XP 2DAY??  
 LISTN 2UR SAV'S CAL UPON UR LIF & CUM TO THAT 1ST LUV AS HE  
 WANTS??

(Ilus Bride beatup, etc)  
 (Ilus Theos & Js)  
 Th/modrn Theols-Barth, Bonhoeffer, Brunner, Bultmann  
 & Tillich met th/L. & Th/L askd thez famus men  
 "Who do men say that I am?" & they replied,  
 "S<sup>m</sup> say U R Jn th/Bsp raised fr/th/ded; Sum say U  
 R <sup>e</sup> or one of th/prophs. & evn sum say U R  
 th/Xp, th/S of G."  
 Then th/L sed, "But who do U say that I am?"  
 & they chorusd bak 2gethr=Thou art th/grnd of  
 being; Thou art th/leap of faith in2 th/impene-  
 trabl unknown; Thou art th/unphrasabl, unverblidz,  
 unpropositinal, confrontatin w/th/infinitud of  
 inherent sujectiv experienc."  
 & th/L lookd at them & sed - HUH!  
 (Ilus 7yrs common cold)  
 (man wif dy & open door of herse)



Scripture: Revelation 2:1-5  
 (Illustration of Bride of Christ)  
 Im cert all us wud reac in horor if wer 2witnes such scen  
 Perhpa mayB think 2self,Id nevr want 2witnes such scen  
 But ea us hav witnes such scen many times ovr  
 As think thru story & recog cast charctrs can undrst we bin part  
 Th id is=Ch of Js Xp  
 Fatar on arm=God  
 Groom=nun othr than Js Xp,stan/wait receiv bride  
 but insted receiv Bride who butiful/perf/w/out spot,blem,wrinkl  
 He receiv Brid tattrd & torn  
 A bride had2 battl way dwn aisl as strugl 2B unit w/Bridgrum  
 This is Bride of wh/U & I R a part;Th/Bride,th?Ch of Js Xp has bi  
 bin battl w/in & w/out  
 Js sed He wud bld His Ch & th/gates of hel cudnot prevail agin  
 we undrst it wil meet opositin fr/w/out, but th/epos th/Ch has  
 met w/in is wat grievd our Sav so that He persnly spok warns  
 agin it in th/erly 1st century Ch  
 It was Apostl Jn wrot th/mesag he receiv fr/Js & this in buk Rev  
 at Bgin 2nd chap C 1st mesag 2-1st ch  
 thez 7 ch's Js spks of R reps of Ch's wh/wud cum aftr them &  
 thus,altho thez ch's no lnger exis,mesag is fresh 4 ch's 2day  
 Ironic 1st ch adres is Ephesus Ch;this fnd by Apos P & he wrot  
 Ch/2Bwar Bcuz grevus wolvs wud cum & n sheep cloth,& steal sheep  
 Wat he warn of tuk plac this Ch  
 Eph saud at cros rds of worl;In Eph was major trad rtes cam  
 2gethr;Eph hom of Romn Gov;Eph held 1 of 7wondrs of worl-Templ  
 of Diana & peo cam fr/all ovr worl 2C & partak imoral rites  
 P fnded th/Ch;Tim 1 of pastrs so was Apolos;Priscil/Aquila/Apos  
 Jn wer membris  
 so can C had grt Xpian histry in its erly yrs  
 vs 1=Js Bgins mesag=angl persn in chrg-preachr,pastor  
 1 do indictment agin pastor,but agin Ch undr his care  
 7stars wer 7-Ch's & one hol rt hand=Js  
 7candlstick & one walk mong=7 ch's-lite gav & Js  
 vs 2-3=comendatin 4things dun rt  
 Ch bin faithfl seek 2B pur;fite agin evil/fals teach  
 Js tol dun excelen job & had labr w/out gro weary & let evil  
 influ in2 cong  
 vs 5=Js remin them go bak original work 2wh/bin cal or wud put out  
 their lite;they wer 2turn th/ch bak 2th/Lord,pt it in that direc  
 or els wdd go way of worl & no lnger B part Ch of Js Xp  
 vs 6=Js comend agin  
 Expl Nicelaitians wer lik Gnostics Bliev soul gud net body,etc  
 & sum thez peop wer membris of Ch & Js comend 4 discip them,  
 dismis them as membris of th/body  
 vs 7=Js giv sumatin wat wilB giv 2evr tru Blivr remain tru 2 Lord  
 Tree was in Eden & G wil restor Blievers 2that sunday

2/  
 But wat was it Js fnd wrong w/this cong? Ansr=vs 4  
 Wat was 1st Luv? It was deep luv/comitmen had 2folo Sav wherevr  
 rd led  
 They prem 2luv until very end of lif,but midway dwn rd,luv turn  
 Wat had caus this?? We no kno & can only speculat  
 Cud hav bin intelectul comunity-deep think & Greeks did this  
 Ex 1=Jn writ Gospel=In Th Bgin was Th/Word,& Word was G,etc  
 that typ reasn no disapear,has grwn & stil w/us  
 (Ilus Theologins & Js ask "Who do men say I am?")  
 this exactl wat hapn Ch of 20th centry many congs  
 insted plain/simpl Gospl preach,hav bin intelectul drivl & evn  
 sum of clergy no undrstan wat they preach  
 resul=Ch canot B bout propr work of th/Lord  
 Ch of Eph maybin involv many thing,but Js acus this caus loss of  
 first luv  
 can only andrst if cp w/human situ;boy meets girl;fal luv-marry  
 but relationship no remain same as time go on  
 (Ilus 7 years of marriag & comon cold)  
 Snd famil? Unfort yrs liv 2gethr deteriorates many marags  
 (Ilus man,wife dy,& he open door of hers 4her)  
 Th/1st luv=it one of joy,hapnes,shar,care,do,but as tim go on,  
 that 1st luv turn 2luv of convenience,neglec,lak of concern  
 it hap in marags,but hap individ cong  
 many peo cum in2 cong on fir 4th/Lord;ther enthus grt & boy they  
 R fird up 2serv Him  
 But tim goes on & persn cant responsibiltys cong lif may hav subtl  
 shift of loylty or luv  
 insted of think wat L wants,wat shudB dun in wong,it Bcum persn  
 strugl perhaps 4powr w/dif factins w/in decisin mak bodys of  
 th/cong  
 or persn may Bcum disgruntl Bcuz Ch no spend mony as they lik  
 this wrong/that wrong/that persn wrong/nuthin rt,etc.  
 & 1st thing hap is that gift,Xp luv/Xp honr individ fals by  
 wayside - WHY? Bcuz ther 1st Luv is lost  
 Wat was that 1st luv Js pt out?  
 It luv we exper wen 1st cum 2 th/L & tak as L & Sav  
 it that luv that compul us 2liv 4Him & 2sho our luv by our  
 livs & our serv  
 Do U hav that 1st luv? Or has ur 1st luv grwn cold?  
 Hav U evr had that 1st luv? Hav U evr exper that wrmth,that un-  
 describl feel,that emotinal impac that maks persn want 2luv the  
 worl 4 Js Xp?  
 If U havnt,perhap U hav nevr cum 2th/plac wher U hav surendr Ur  
 lif 2th?lord;if U want 2exper that 1st luv,why not reach out 4  
 wat Js Xp can do 4U & giv U in Ur lif;or if Ur 1st luv has grwn  
 cold & U hav drop out of lif of th/Ch,listn 2th/Sav's cal upon  
 Ur lif & answer 2day



## "Might Have Been"

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-5

(Illustration of Church as "The Bride" of Christ)

The church was filled. The soloist had completed her last song and went to her seat in the choir loft. The organist began another song and from the ante-room came the minister followed by the groom and his best man. Everyone in the congregation smiled as they looked at the groom. He was so handsome and looked so elegant in his black tux. Many of the women spoke to one another and commented how lucky the bride was to have such a handsome man. He was all that any prospective bride could want in a husband. Thus the stage was set and the organist now began the processional. The bridesmaids all came down the aisle one by one. Then the Maid of Honor appeared and the tension began to build as each person waited expectantly for the appearance of the Bride. At last everyone of the bridal party was assembled at the front of the church. The organist then struck the beginning fanfare of the Bridal March and all of the congregation rose to their feet. Everyone knew that at last the bride had made her appearance at the back of the church. Now, as the familiar strains of "Here Comes The Bride" echoed in the church every eye was turned toward the aisle to ~~ga~~ catch their first glimpse of the one they all knew was as beautiful as the Bridegroom was handsome. But as the bride started to make her way down the aisle a startled gasp began to pass through the congregation. Surely there must be some mistake. This was not the beautiful bride they had all waited in anxious anticipation to see. Her dress was torn and part of its full-length was missing; this revealed rips and tears in her nylon stockings; her bare arms were covered with welts and bruises; her facial makeup was smeared; one of her eyes was discolored and swollen shut; her hair was disheveled and dirty; and her veil was sitting askance on her head and she slowly and wobbly walked down the aisle on the arm of her Father.

I'm certain that all of us would react in horror if we were to witness such a scene. Perhaps we may be thinking to ourselves that I'd never want to be witness to something such as this. But each of us have witnessed this very scene many times over. As we think through this story and recognize the list of characters in it, we can then understand what it is we have each been a part of. The Bride is the Church of Jesus Christ. Her Father on her arm is of course God. And the Groom is none other than Jesus Christ standing, waiting to receive His Bride the Church. But instead of receiving the Bride who is beautiful, and perfect, without blot, or spot, or wrinkle, He receives a Bride that is tattered and worn. A bride that had had to battle Her way down the aisle as She struggles to be united with the Bridegroom. This is the Bride of which you and I are a part. The Bride, The Church of Jesus Christ has been battered from within and without. Jesus said He would build His Church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it." We understand that it will meet opposition from without. But the opposition the Church has met from within is what grieved our Savior so that He personally spoke warnings against it in the early First Century Church. It was the Apostle John who received this message from Jesus and wrote it down. That message is contained in the Book of Revelation. At the beginning of the 2nd chapter of this book we see the first message to the first church. These seven churches to which Jesus speaks are representative of churches which would come after them and within succeeding churches are to be found the ingredients against which the Lord speaks. So even though these churches, or congregations no longer exist, the message is fresh and real pointing to the dangers which exist in our own day and age.

It is ironic that the first church addressed is the Church at Ephesus. The Apostle Paul founded this church and it was he who wrote in one of his letters to beware of grievous wolves that would come in sheep's clothing to steal away the sheep. The very thing he



warned against took place within this very good and strong congregation of believers. Ephesus stood at the crossroads of the world. It was in Ephesus that the major trade routes came together. It was Ephesus that was the home of the Roman Governor; and it was Ephesus that held one of the seven wonders of the world. The beautiful temple of Diana was there and naturally, people came from all over to admire it and to partake of its pagan rites which involved immorality on a grand scale. Paul founded the church, Timothy was one of its pastors, so was Appolos; Priscilla and Aquila were members of this church and so was the Apostle John. From this we can see that it had a great Christian history in its early years. Jesus spoke to John and He told him to write to the seven churches a message for each and so he begins by telling him, "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; 'These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven candlesticks.'"

The "angel" of the church and each church addressed as such was the person who was in charge of preaching and teaching there. It was probably the person selected as Pastor. It was not an indictment against the pastor, but the message to him about the church under his care. The "seven stars" were the seven churches; the One who held them in His right hand was Jesus; and the "seven candlesticks," and the "One who walked among them," were the seven churches and the Lord Jesus walking in their midst. Thus we have the introduction.

Now comes the message. First there is the commendation for what they have done right. Jesus said: "I know thy works," etc, ~~xxxxxx(read these)xx~~ verses 2 and 3, (read these).

The church had been faithful in seeking to be pure, fighting against evil and false teaching. Jesus told them they had done an excellent job of this and had continued to labor without growing weary and letting the evil influence into the congregation.

It is then that Jesus explains what the church had done which was wrong, and then He gives the solution to correct that wrong, followed by what was the reward for correcting the problem. I would like to skip past the 4th verse and come back to it later and look at the correction needed within the church at Ephesus.

Jesus reminded them, "Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first work or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent," verse 5.

Jesus told them to get back to the original work to which they had been called or He would extinguish their flame. They were to turn the church back to the Lord, point it in that direction or else it would go the way of the world and no longer be a part of the Church of Jesus Christ.

And then Jesus again commends them and says, (read verse 6). These Nicolaitans were people who lived immoral lives much like the Gnostics who believed that the soul was the only thing of worth and a person could do anything corrupt or evil with the body since it didn't affect the soul. Some of these people were members of the church and Jesus commended the church for dealing with them and dismissing them as members. Then Jesus gives a summation of that which will be given to every believer who remains true to the Lord, (read verse 7.)

The tree of Life stood within the garden of Eden which was a veritable paradise which man perverted by sinning. Jesus says that one day, all believers will be permitted to live in God's eternal paradise.



That, in essence is a summation of the message Jesus had for the church at Ephesus. But what was it that Jesus found wrong with this congregation? The answer is found in the 4th verse. It is there that we read, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

What was that first love? It was that deep love, that commitment they had to follow their Savior wherever that road may lead. They had promised to love Him until the very end of life. But midway down that road that love had grown into something else. What had caused this? We don't really know, we can only speculate. It may well have been that the church became involved in the intellectual community around them. They were living among those to whom the intellect and deep thinking was thought to be the necessary ingredient of life. They delved deeply into deep thinking. An example of this is the reason for the Apostle John beginning his Gospel by writing, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God," etc. By the use of the word, "Word," instead of Jesus, John was able to convey to these thinkers the meaning of the message of his Gospel. They were able to think this concept of God in the midst of man through. But that type of reasoning didn't cease with the disappearance of the Ephesian church. It has continued down to our present day and time. You may have heard of Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Emil Brunner, Rudolph Bultmann, or Paul Tillich, or none of the above. All of these men were of this deep thinking group and are known as Theologians. If you have tried to read something they have written you can readily understand the difficulty an average person has of knowing just exactly what they are trying to say. It takes them a paragraph to say what you and I could say in one sentence, and even then you would have trouble understanding what they are saying. Each of them used a certain phrase to describe Jesus such as, "The Ground of Being," or, "the leap of faith," and so on (Illustration of what someone wrote of Jesus' encounter with these men)

Someone wrote of an encounter Jesus had with these men when He questioned them as to who He is. They replied, "Some say you are John the Baptist raised from the dead, Some say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets. And even some say you the Christ, the Son of God." Then the Lord said to the theologians, "But who do you say that I am?" And Barth, Bonhoeffer, Brunner, Bultmann, and Tillich chorused back, their answer: "Thou art the ground of being. Thou art the leap of faith into the impenetrable unknown. Thou art the unphraseable, unverbilized, unpropositional confrontation with the infinitude of inherent, subjective ~~experience~~ experience." And the Lord looked at them and said, "HUH!"

And this is exactly what has happened to the 20th century church in many congregations. Instead of the plain and simple Gospel being preached there is a lot of the intellectual drive being preached which the average person cannot understand, (and many of the clergy preaching it are thoroughly confused), and the church cannot be about its proper work for the Lord. The church at Ephesus may have been involved in many other things, but the one thing that the Lord Jesus accused them of, was the loss of their first love. We can understand this if we make a comparison to the human situation. We all know that when boy meets girl and fall in love it makes a great difference in both of their lives. They get married and then settle into the routine of marriage, but the relationship doesn't stay the same as time goes on and there are many proofs of this. Someone gives us the illustration of the common cold a wife had for each of seven years, and the husband's reaction to that situation.



(Illustration of this - "Marriage: The Cold")

Sound familiar to any of us? Unfortunately, years lived together deteriorates many marriages

(Illustration of man, wife dies, and he opens door of hearse for her)

There was ~~was~~ a man who was married for a number of years and his wife died. He wasn't hit too hard by this, he accepted it as part of life. The funeral was held and it came time to go to the cemetery. In this particular funeral home the funeral director always asked the immediate family of the deceased to precede the casket to the hearse and stand in a line on either side as the casket was placed inside. The husband walked ahead of the rest of the family with the Funeral Director and when they reached the hearse, the Funeral Director told the husband, "You may open the door for your wife." The man reached out, took the handle of the door in his hand and opened the door of that hearse, and immediately broke down in tears. The reason, his mind was flooded with all of the times his wife had gotten into the car since their marriage and he never once opened the door for her. It took her death to get him to extend that courtesy to her and she would never know of it.

The first love! It is one of joy, happiness, sharing, caring, doing. But as time goes on, that first love turns to a love of convenience, of neglect, of lack of concern. It happens in marriages, but it happens also in the individual congregation. Many people come into a congregation on fire for the Lord. Their enthusiasm is great and boy they are fired up to serve Him. But time goes on and that person caught up in the responsibilities of that congregation's life may have a subtle shift of loyalty or love. Instead of thinking what the Lord wants, and what should be done in the congregation it becomes a personal struggle perhaps for power with different factions within the decision making bodies of the church; or the person may become disgruntled because the church is not spending its money as he or she thinks it should; or this is wrong and that is wrong, and this person is wrong or that person is wrong, and the first thing that happens is that gifted, Christ loving/honoring person falls by the wayside. And the First love is lost.

What is first love as Jesus was pointing it out? It is the love that we experience when we take Him as our Lord and Savior. It is that love that compels us to live for Him and to show our love by our lives and by our service.

Do you have that first love? Or has your first love grown cold? Have you ever had that First love? Have you ever experienced that warmth, that undescrivable feeling, that emotional impact that ~~makes~~ makes a person want to love the world for Jesus Christ? If you haven't perhaps you have never come to the place where you have surrendered your life to the Lord. If you want to experience that First Love, why not reach out for what Jesus Christ can do for you and give you in your life. Or if your First Love has grown cold and you have dropped out of the life of the church, listen to the Savior's call upon your life and answer today.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 2, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Mike Gamble  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 336 "O Worship the King"  
\*Ascription  
\*The Call to Communion (communion folder)  
\*The Confession  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "Festive Alleluia"  
Scripture: Jeremiah 52: 31-34  
Sermon: "By Invitation"  
Communion Hymn No. 564 "Let Us Break Bread Together"  
\*Service of Holy Communion (page 2 of communion folder)  
The Lord's Supper  
Distribution of the Bread  
Distribution of the Cup  
\*Prayer of Thanksgiving  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 235 "Jesus Is Lord of All"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mr. Anna Zubik in memory of Louis Zubik.  
Mrs. Elva McCormick will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.  
Ushering today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Jeff Snyder,  
and Frank Crawford.

Nursery will be provided today be Mrs. Sue Davis.  
Attendance last Sunday was 120.  
Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

Ken Draxinger will be driving the Van October 9th.  
Hospitalized: Kathryn Bancroft, Grace Robinson, and  
Kay Brown in BMH. *DOUG VENEEL*

Schedule for this week:  
Monday - October 3rd Benevolence Committee at 7 P.M.  
October 5th Council meeting at 7 P.M.

Next weeks activities:  
Monday - set up for Soup and Salad  
Tuesday - Soup and Salad Day. Tickets are now available.  
Cabbage and peppers are needed. Don't forget  
your Bazaar items and baked goods. Your help  
is also needed.

> October 15th we are having try outs for the Christmas  
Sunday School program at 10:00 A.M. We would like all of  
the children of the Sunday School classes to please come  
and help us out.

> October 9th the service will be conducted by a represent-  
ative of St. Paul's Home in Greenville. They will be  
presenting us with a program on their Alzheimers Disease  
Center. We hope you will come out and listen to their  
program.

> NEW MEMBERS will be taken into the congregation on October  
the 16th. If you or anyone you know may be interested  
in joining, please let the office know.

We are still looking for someone to volunteer to chair the  
Nursery committee for the church. This job does not  
require much work, just lining up a person to be in  
charge of the nursery each week. We would appreciate  
your help. Contact the office or LuAnn Janicki.

> Sunday Evening Bible Study will resume tonight at 7 P.M.  
Anyone interested may attend. Hope to see you there!  
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



"By invitation"  
 Scripture: Jeremiah 52:31-34  
 K Neb of Babyln entr Jeru & tuk sum captivs among whom wer Ban & his 3 frends;he also tuk goldn veels fr/templ  
 K Jehoiakin was 2B takn as wel,in fac,he bin placd in chains  
 out 4sum reasn K Neb had him releas & permit 2remain in Jeru  
 w/ 3 othr captivs wer takn in 2 exil in Babyln  
 Bliev K Jehoiakin convinc K Neb he wudB loyl subj/serv 2 him if permit 2remain in Jeru  
 This pt Jud histry moral/relig decay Bgan 2set in  
 Heathn gods Baal/Astroth wer wors opnly at gates temp & it  
 Bliev humn sacs wer agin offr in Vally of Hinom  
 Undr thez conditins crulty,corruptin,opresin wer comonplac Jeru  
 Dur this time proph Jer wrot words on scrol,gav K Jehoiakin,he  
 read,cut off w/knif & thro in fire  
 About 3yrs aftr this K Jehoi decid rebel agin Babylonia Bcuz  
 K Neb 2busy fite agin Egypt  
 Sinc K Neb cudnt fite agin Jud,he incit neighbr natins 2do so  
 until he cud fite agin them himself  
 But in that interrim,on Dec 10,598 K Jehoiakin dyd  
 Bcuz he was not godly K peo no mourn 4him & he givn shamful bury  
 Jer had proph this=(READ JER 22:18-19  
 Jehoiachin suceed him on thron at tendr age 18,but peo no kne wat  
 kind K wudB sinc only reign 3mos 18days  
 He asum thron in Dec aftr deth fathr,& reign til Mar 16,597 wen  
 he was takn captiv  
 K Neb had finish war w/Egypt,brot army 2Jeru & K Jehoiachin was  
 forc 2surrendr  
 He takn captiv,reign end Mar 16,& on Aprl 22 he march 2 Babyl  
 w/10M othr captivs,includ mothr,proph Ezek,& royl treasurs  
 In Babyl K Jehoi remain natnl hope 4peo Jud dur long imprisment  
 He was legit K of Jud,sucessor 2thron Dav,& he was cal this &  
 a long as he remain aliv he kep that natinlistic sp,peo aliv  
 but Bcuz sins thoz B4 him,he no permit 2return 2Jeru 2reign &  
 wat G had proph thru Jer cam 2pas  
 Jer 22:24=READ THIS  
 G talk bout His seal approv here=signet=stamp approv  
 If K gav ring 2suml lik Phar gav 2Jos,ment persn cud act Bhalf  
 Wat did & sed was official  
 Coniah=nothr name 4 Jehoiachin & G say if Jehoi wer G's signet  
 ring,& if had authroty act G's Bhalf,G wud tak bak that honr/pr  
 & G say wud let Jehoi/peo B ovrrun by Neb & Babs=vs 25=READ  
 vs 26=wat G had sed cam 2pas=De U C wat G says wil cum tru?  
 It was in this foreign land that Jehoi did dy & G 4ther sed=27  
 Jehoi & peo long 2go bak 2homeland,but nevr did  
 vs 28=G asks questin=& means-Is he G's man? Was he wat G want 2B?  
 & wernt th/peo lik ther K so they end up lik him?  
 vs 29=Jer plead 4-G b4 thpeo 2hear th/Word of th/Lord  
 vs 30=Here finl mesag & wat G sed was that K Jehoi was 2B writn  
 in genealogcl record as B childles evn tho had 7sons  
 Reasn? sons wudnt suceed 2thron & he last of Sols line

Sucesin 2thron of Dav pas on 2line of Nathan who shud hav actuly  
 bin sucessor 2 K Dav  
 So stag set 4 drama wh/nw tak plac:K Neb had takn K Jud captiv  
 & put in prisn along w/many subjs  
 37yrs gon by & Evil/Merodach now sit on thron of fathr K Neb  
 ILUS:K at banq tabl;dor opn & stoop sheldrd man entr in prison  
 c /hes;w/bow hed mak way 2end of tabl 2sit w/lessr peopl  
 But one K serves,tak by arm & Bgin lead 2hed of tabl;he protest;  
 ther musB mistak;but K asur no mistak & clap hands 4chair ident  
 lik sit on B brot 4 him;find self stan nex K Ev-Merodach mos p  
 powful K that time & then seat Bsid  
 Seat brot,Princ displac & forc mov dwn & ea suceed princ do  
 likwis-lik misicl chairs in palace of Babylonia  
 Ince agin K clap hands & ordr serves bring chng dres 4 guest  
 royl clothing brot 4th & Jehoiachin,K of Jud Ince agin aftr 37  
 yrs is treat like roylty agin  
 But this only start Bcuz read Scrip=vs 23B-34  
 altho nevr return 2homeland,he rais 2plac of K in this foreinglan  
 This Ilus fr/Scrip giv us pictur wat G actul duz at latr time  
 histry  
 It many yrs latr,G cums as serv,liv in exil in 4eign land,4 a  
 period of time,then exchang cloths of prisnr 2tak en garb of  
 roylty  
 Js is that Ilus;but mor than that=He offr 2any & all who wil  
 acpt His invitatin, 2cum & join Him at His banquet tabl  
 He bids us cum & exchang our clothes of prisnrs & B set free fr  
 th/prisn in wh/we liv  
 That prisn 4us is th/sin wh/holds us captiv & keeps us apart  
 fr/th/King  
 We liv in a 4eign land Bcuz hvn is actuly our hom & that wher we  
 wil go aftr we hav livd our livs in th/presenc of th/King if we  
 an His sumons of=Cum un2 Me all ye that labr & R hvy ladm & I  
 gi rest  
 Js is cal us 2join Him,not only at His tabl,but in His kngdm as  
 wel  
 (Ilus littl boy,& Boston Common as +Come On)  
 jus as littl boy thot invitatin was 2-Cum On & was opn 2all,  
 so we mus kne this invitatin is is 4ea 2cum 2Js Just as we R  
 He invit any & all who wil cum 2Him,2meet Him at any time  
 Perhap this morn U hav not acapt that invitatin of Js 2acpt His  
 gifts of Salv & etrn lif He so freely offr  
 this morn we hav that invitatin as we tak our plac at His tabl  
 & eat w/Him  
 If U hav nevr takn Him as Ur Sav,wen U partak of th/bred & th/  
 cup simply say,Dear L,I acpt U as My Sav;I Bliev U hav 4giva  
 me of my sins,& I partak of this royl feast at Ur tabl,by Ur  
 invitatin 2 cum 2 You  
 & if U wil 2do that I wud lik 2kne,not 4numbrs sak, but that I  
 may get sum litratur 2U,& Evn talk 2U about it  
 U can talk 2me bout it briefly at door,or write me note

or give me a call

I pray that if U havnt cum 2 th/L, U wil do so 2day in th/time  
of Communion w/our Lord Js.

DATE:

ON LIST:

DAILY LOG SHEET

Artz, F.

Connelly, J.

Dodds, C.

Dowell, V.

Johnson, K.

Leri, R.

Marzullo, M.

Mart, M.

McKnight, J.

Miller, N.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - NOVEMBER 6, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUNG PEOPLE/YOUTH LOCKIN NOV. 11

BOOKLETS/DAILY BREAD BACK TABLE

ANNUAL MEETING / DINNER / FELLOWSHIP

\*HYMN

PRAYER/OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: JEREMIAH 52:31-34

SERMON: "BY INVITATION" - ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 10/2/88

\*HYMN

\*HYMN

THE LORD'S SUPPER

\*HYMN

BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

JACKIE

S. CAR. FAMILY

HELEN



SCRIP: JER 52:31-34;(Jer 22); SERM: BY INVITATION"

(ILUS HISTORY STUDENTS ANSWERS - (MISSPELLED, ETC)

MOST OF US R BORD W/HISTRY & AT RISK OF BORE U I'S LIK 2SHAR  
SUM BIBLICAL HISTRY W/YOU

ON DECEMBER 10, 598 BC K JEHOIAKIM DYD

JER 22:18-19=EXPLAIN DONKY BURAIL,JEHOIAKIM UNGODLY K& PROPH FUI

SUCEED BY SON JEHOIACHIN, AGE 18 /scalld evil K BCUZ EVIL F

BUT NO KNO WAT KINF K WUDB BCUZ REIGN ONLY 3MCS & TAKN CAPTIV

K JEHOIAKIM-FATHR-REBEL AGIN NEB& BABYLON,BCUZ NEB BUSY EGYPT

NEB CUD NO FITE JUD & INCIT NEIBRS 2DO SO BCUZ JEHOIAKIM &

REB AGIN NEB & BABYLON

NEB FIN WAR W/EGYPT & CUM JERU & K JEHOIACHIN FORC SURENDR

HIS REIGN LAST FR/DEC 598 TO March 16, 597 & TAK CAPTIV

ON APR 22,MARCH 2BABYLON W/MOTHR,PROPH EZEK & ROYL TREASURES

IN BABYLON JEHOIACHIN LK AT AS FIGUR NATINALISTIC HOPE

LEGIT K JUDAH,SUCESOR TO DAVIS & AS LONG LIV,SO NAT. HOPE

BUT NEVER CAME HOME & ASSUM THRONE

JER 22:24=SIGNET REP AUTHORITY OF KING-STAMP OF APPROVAL

EXAMPL OF JOSEPH & RING OF PHARAOH - OFFICIAL ACTION=RING

CONAIIH/JECONIAH/JEHOIACHIN=ALL SAME MAN

THIS IS AN ILUS FR/SCRIP WH/GIVS US A PICTUR OF WAT G WUD ACTUAL  
DO AT A LATR TIME IN HISTRY

MANY YRS LATR G CAM AS SERV,LIV IN EXIL,& THEN EXCHANG CLOTHES  
OF PRISNR & TUK GRAB OF ROYLTY

JS IS THAT ILUS ~~GARR~~

BUT MOR THAN THAT,HE OFFRS 2ANY & ALL WHO WIL ACT HIS INVITATIN

2CUM & JOIN HIM AT HIS BANQUET TABL

HE BIDS US CUM & EXCHCLOTHS OF PRISNR & B SET FREE FR/PRISN

IN WH/WE LIV

THAT PRISON 4US & TH/WORL IS TH/SIN WH/SEPS US & HOLDS US CAPTIV  
& APART FR/THE KING

WE LIV FOREIGN LAND BCUZ HVN IS OUR HOME & THAT WHER WIL GO ~~IF~~

AFTER HAV LIVD LIVS IN PRESENC OF TH/K IF WE ANSR HIS SUMMONS==

"CUM UN2 ME ALL YE THAT LABR & R HVY LADN,& I WIL GIV U REST"

JS CALS US 2HIS TABL & 2HIS KINGDOM

(ILUS OF BOY IN BOSTON & "BOSTON COMMONS AS COME ON")

INVITATION TO COME TO THE TABLE/ACCEPT XP OR BOTH)

G SAYS WUD TAK BAK HONOR & PRIV FR/JEHOIACHIN BCUZ FATHER EVIL  
VS 25=G PROMIS WAT WUD HAPPN

VS 26=G PROMIS 4MOTHR & SELF, CAPTIVTY & DETH IN FOREIGN LAND

VS 27=THEY DESIR 2CUM BAK & WUD NOT

VS 28=WAS HE G'S MAN? JUDG BCUZ FATHR

VS 29=JER PLEAD S FOR G TO TH/PEO

VS 30=JEHOIACHIN HAD NO CHANC RULE IN JERU & WUD LIV LIF OUT OF  
TH/PLAN OF GOD

2B WRIT AS CHILDLES, BUT HAD 7 SONS

MEANS HIS LISTING IN GEN RECORDS WROT NO CHILDREN

REASON?? SONS WUD NOT SUCEED HIM TO TH/THRON

LAST OF SOLS LINE & THRON DAV PASS ON NATHAN'S LINE

HE SHUD BIN SUCCESSOR TO THRON ISTD OF SOLOMON

STAGE SET: 37YRS GO BY,NEB GON & SON=EVIL-MERODACH SIT THRONE

BANQUET PREP-TABL SET,SUMPTUOUS FEAST - GUESTS SIT IN ORDER

DOOR OPN,STOOP SHOULDR MAN ESCORT IN2ROOM & MAKs WAY END TABL

ESCORT TAK OTHR END BY K,HE PROTES,BUT K INDICAT NO MISTAK

K CLAP HANDS,CHAIR BROT LIK K'S & PRINCE MADE TO MOV DWN,

PRINCE DEMAN NEX MAN MOV,ETC,-MUSICAL CHAIRS & SUMONE OF

ROYLTY MUS SIT SEAT INTEND OLD MAN

K CLAP HANDS & ASK 4ROYL CHOTHING & K JEHOIACHIN RESTOR AS KING

SCRIP VSS 31-34=K JEHOIACHIN ATE AT THE K'S TABL TH/REST OF HIS

LIF UNTIL HE DYD



# "By Invitation"

Scripture: Jeremiah 52:31-34

King Jehoiakim was the reigning monarch in Judah when ~~Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians~~ -----  
~~On December 10, in the year 598 B.C., King Jehoiakim of Judah died and because he was not a godly king~~  
~~the people did not mourn for him and he was given a shameful burial.~~ King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon entered Jerusalem and took some captives among whom were Daniel and his three friends. He also took the golden vessels from the temple. King Jehoiakim was supposed to be taken as well. In fact, he had been placed in chains, but for some reason King Nebuchadnezzar had him released and permitted him to remain in Jerusalem while the other captives were all taken into exile in Babylon. It is believed that King Jehoiakim convinced Nebuchadnezzar that he would be a loyal ~~slave to him~~ servant to him if permitted to remain in Jerusalem.

At this point in the history of Judah, moral ~~decay~~ and religious decay began to set in. The heathen gods of Baal and Ashtaroth were worshiped openly at the very gates of the temple and it is believed that human sacrifices were once again offered in the valley of Hinnom. So it was that under these conditions cruelty, corruption and oppression were commonplace in Jerusalem. It was during this time that the Prophet Jeremiah wrote the words of God on a ~~scroll~~ scroll and gave it to ~~the~~ King Jehoiakim. When the king read of the divine judgement prophesied against Judah, he cut off leaves of the scroll and threw them into the fire. ~~After~~ About three years following this action King Jehoiakim decided to rebel against Babylonia because King Nebuchadnezzar was too busy fighting battles elsewhere, against Egypt principally.

On December 10, in the year 598 B.C. King Jehoiakim died and because he was not a godly king the people did not mourn for him and he was given a shameful burial. Jeremiah had prophesied this and we read of it in the 22nd chapter of his prophecy, at the ~~18th~~ 18th and 19, (Read these verses). His son, Jehoiachin succeeded him on the throne at the tender age of 18. But the people did not get to know what kind of a king he would have been <sup>598</sup> because his reign only lasted three months and 18 days. He assumed the throne ~~on~~ December following the death of his father and reigned until March 16th ~~when he was taken captive~~ 597 when he was taken captive. It is said in Scripture that he was an evil king but that is because he followed his evil father and didn't have an adequate chance to show what he would do. Since King Nebuchadnezzar couldn't fight a war with Judah he incited neighboring people to stage raids against Judah because of what King Jehoiakim was doing in defiance to the Babylonian rule over them. Nebuchadnezzar finished his war with Egypt, brought his army to Jerusalem and King Jehoiachin was forced to surrender. He was taken captive and on ~~March 16~~ March 16, his reign ended and on April 22 he was marched to Babylon with 10,000 other captives, including his mother, the prophet Ezekiel, and the royal treasures as well.

In Babylon, King Jehoiachin remained a figure of nationalistic hope during his long imprisonment. He was the legitimate King of Judah, and was called this, but he was also the legitimate successor to King David as well. Thus, as long as he was alive he kept that nationalistic spirit of the people alive.

But because of the sins of those before him he was not permitted to return to Jerusalem to reign and what God had prophesied through Jeremiah came to pass. In the 22nd chapter of



Jeremiah's prophecy we read of the further plan of God beginning with the 24th verse.

God said through the prophet: "As I live, saith the Lord, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee hence."

God is talking about His seal of approval here. The signet ring worn by a king was what was used to make something official. It was <sup>an</sup> stamp of approval so to speak. If the king gave his ring to ~~some~~ someone as Pharaoh gave his ring to Joseph, it meant that this person was able to act on behalf of the king. What he did and said was official. Coniah is another name for Jehoiachin and God is saying in this prophecy, that if Jehoiachin wore God's signet ring, if he had God's authority to act on God's behalf, God would take back that honor and privilege. And God says He would let Jehoiachin and his people be overrun by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. Verse 25, He says, (Read this.

Then in verse 26, God says, (Read this verse). Jehoiachin's mother was taken to Babylon with him and the other captives. Can you see ~~how~~ that what God says, comes true? It was in this foreign land that Jehoiachin did indeed die. God further says, "But to the land wherunto they desire to return, thither they shall not return."

Jehoiachin and his people longed to go back to Jerusalem, but they never did.

God asks the question, "Is this man Coniah, (Jehoiachin), a despised broken ~~man~~ idol? Is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? Wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?"

The question is, is Jehoiachin God's man? Was he what God wanted him to be? And were the people like their king so that they all ended up in a foreign land? Jeremiah pleading for God to the people before this all came to pass cried out, "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord."

He was pleading with them to ~~he~~ hear the words God had given him about this situation and then he gives the final message about this king as we read in the 30th verse, "Thus saith the Lord 'Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah.'"

What God said was this man, Jehoiachin would not have the opportunity to reign in Jerusalem and would live his life out of the plan of God. The prophet was to tell the people that this man was written up as childless. That meant in the ~~gene~~ genealogical records of the people of Judah and the kings of Judah, Jehoiachin was listed as having no children although he did indeed have seven sons. The reason for this is that his sons would not succeed him to the throne. He was the last ~~of~~ of Solomon's line and the succession to the throne of David passed to the line of Nathan, the son of David who should have actually succeeded David instead of Solomon.

That is the background to what preceded our Scripture in this last chapter of the prophecy of Jeremiah. Thus we read, (read verse 31). Evil-Merodach had succeeded his father Nebuchadnezzar and Jehoiachin had been in captivity for 37 years. He was under house arrest, but with this limited freedom was still a prisoner. The words, "Lifted up his head," simply refers to the fact that those who are in sorrow hang their heads and when that sorrow is removed the person could lift up his head. The Hebrew phrase "lift up the head" signifies to "comfort, cheer, make happy."



So the stage is set for the drama which will now take place. King Nebuchadnezzar had taken the King of Judah and many of his subjects and thrown them into prison. Thirty-seven years have gone by and Nebuchadnezzar's son, Evil-Merodach sits on the throne. He is sitting at the head of his banquet table which is laden with all sorts of food and drink. The room is one of splendour and contains all that the ancient world knew of wealth and sumptuousness. All of the royal personages are there. At the table sitting in the proper sequence according to their succession to the throne are all of the princes of Babylon.

At the side of the room a door opens and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ what appears to be an old stoop shouldered man is escorted into the room. With bowed head, he starts to make his way to the end of the table to sit on a chair with the lesser notables of the kingdom. But one of his escorts takes his arm and begins to walk him to the other end of the table. At first he begins to protest that there has been a mistake, but is assured that there is no mistake and finds himself standing beside King Evil-Merodach, the most powerful king of that time. The king stands up and greets the man and claps his hands and demands that one of his servants bring forth a seat identical to the one he is seated on. The royal seat is brought forth by the servants and to make room for it, one of the princes, the man next in line to the throne is displaced and the shabby visitor is seated next to the king. This causes a succession of musical chairs as each prince demands ~~that~~ the seat of the man next to him ~~until~~ until it reaches the end of the table and someone is forced to sit on the seat this visitor should have occupied.

Once again the king claps his hands and when his servants appear he orders a change of dress for his guest. The royal clothing is brought forth and Jehoiachin, the King of Judah once again after 37 years of exile is treated as royalty. But this was only the start, because for the rest of his days he ate at the king's table until he died. Although he never returned to his homeland, he was raised to the place of a king ~~in~~ in this foreign land. This illustration from Scripture gives us a picture of what God would actually do at a later time in history. It was many years later that God came as a servant, lived in exile for a period of time and then exchanged the clothes of a prisoner to take on the garb of royalty. Jesus is that illustration. But more than that, He offers to any and all who will accept His invitation to come and join Him at His banquet table. He bids us come and exchange the clothes of the prisoner and be set free from the prison in which we live. That prison for us is the sin which holds us captive and keeps us apart from the King. We live in a foreign land because heaven is actually our home and that's is where we will go after we have lived our lives in the presence of the King if we answer His summons to "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus is calling us to join Him not only at His table, but in His kingdom as well. ~~This~~

(Illustration of little boy and "Boston Common's as 'Come on!')

If you read Daily Bread for this past Tuesday you read the illustration of what is called "Boston Common" in the heart of Boston. Governor John Winthrop an early puritan set aside 50 acres and it is the oldest park in the nation. It was to be a cow pasture and training field. Today it is neither but serves as a place of welcome relief. A little boy was with his parents and they came to the park. The little boy read the sign which said "Boston Common" at the entrance. With enthusiasm and excitement he called out, "It doesn't say, 'Keep off the grass,' it says, 'Come on!'" And with that he ran into the park



Just as that little boy ~~am~~ thought the invitation was to "Come on," and was open to all, so we must know that the invitation is for each one to come to Jesus, "Just as we are." He invites any and all who will come to Him, to meet Him at any time. Perhaps this morning you have not accepted the invitation of Jesus to come to Him and to accept His gifts of Salvation and eternal life which He offers so freely. This morning we have that invitation as we can take our place at His table and sup with Him. If you have never taken Him as your Savior, when you partake of the bread and the cup, simply say, "Dord Jesus, I accept you as my Savior, I believe that You now forgive me of my sins, and I partake of this Royal feast at Your table by Your invitation to come to You." And if you are willing to do that, I would like to know so that perhaps I can give you some literature and talk to you about this. You can write me a note, or tell me privately. I pray that if you haven't come to the Lord, you will do so today.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 9, 1988  
Guest Speaker, Rev. Collins Defibaugh  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Mike Gamble and Megan Hewis  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
Prelude "Hymn of Nuns"  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting:  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 658 "O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission  
High Fulfilling"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession ((In Union) We beseech thee, O God to deepen  
and broaden our commitment. Take our eyes away from  
ourselves and our own interests and help us to see  
the needs of others and the conditions of life they  
face. Help us to know that when we do not reach out  
to the underfed, the homeless, the frustrated  
humanity around us we sin because of our indifference.  
Forgive us and give us more love and compassion  
toward all of your children. Through Christ. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory "Berceuse in A"  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Scripture: Matthew 25: 34-40  
Special Presentation from St. Paul's Home  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 398 "Rise Up, O Men of God"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Emogene Massey has placed the flowers on the altar  
in memory of Loved Ones.  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Taylor will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.  
Members of Youth Group will be Ushering this morning.  
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 9 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Shirley Link.  
Lloyd Link and Rick Vinroe will be visiting the hospital  
this week.  
Van driver for Sunday October 16th will be Ken Draxinger.  
Hospitalized: Kay Brown, Kathryn Bancroft in BMH. - <sup>OUT</sup>  
SCHEDULE FOR THIS COMING WEEK: <sup>HOLIDAY</sup>  
Tuesday - Soup & Salad Day This is served from 11:30  
to 1:30 and Supper from 5:00 to 7:00. Tickets  
are \$3.00 and children's tickets are available.  
Please bring your Bazaar items in on Monday  
or early Tuesday morning in time for noon sales.  
Your help will be greatly appreciated. We will  
be cutting up vegetables on Monday morning if you  
would like to help us out.  
Saturday - 10:00 A.M. we will be holding our try-outs  
for the Christmas Program. Please bring the  
children that can read so we can get the parts  
assigned. We are looking for a good turn out.  
October 16th we will be taking new members into our  
church family. If you or anyone you know is interested  
in joining, please let the office or Pastor know.  
Remember, we are now back to our Sunday Evening Bible Study.  
Won't you come join us? We would like to have you.  
We are still looking for a volunteer to help us line up  
help for the Nursery each Sunday. If you would like to  
do this little job, please let the office know or LuAnn  
Janicki. We could really use your help.  
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor                      October 16, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and John Penrod

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 16 "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) We offer to thee, O Father,  
praise for the gift of thy Spirit. We are made  
aware that your love is given to us in many ways.  
When we are full of doubt, when we are lonely,  
when we show unbelief, it is your Spirit that fills  
us with your truth. And when we burn with hatred,  
or anger, or selfishness, it is your Spirit which  
speaks to us with your love. Forgive us, and may  
your Spirit live, guide, and direct us in all ways.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Children's Moment  
Hymn No. 34 "Holy Bible, Book Divine"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
The Reception of New Members  
Anthem: "How Sweet The Sound"  
Scripture: Psalm 1  
Sermon: "Loving The Word"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 479 "Fill Thou My Life, O Lord  
My God"

\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Kitty Feder in memory of Loved Ones.  
Greeters at the door this morning will be Mr. & Mrs.  
Bill Sheppeck. Welcome members and guests.  
Ushering today will be members of the Youth Group.  
Attendance last Sunday was 116 with 13 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and  
Wendy Norman.  
Art Snyder and Howard Jaillet will be visiting the  
hospital this week.  
Van Driver for October 23 will be Dick Mangel.  
Hospitalized: Ed Hampton in BMH.  
Schedule of Activities for this week:  
Sunday - Bible Study at 7 P.M.  
Activities Committee will meet following the  
Bible Study at 8:00 P.M.  
Wednesday - 7:00 P.M. we are having an instruction  
meeting on how to operate the PA System. If you  
are interested, please show up.  
Thursday - we will begin at 8:30 a.m. to cut up apples  
and make sauce.  
Friday - again we will begin to make apple sauce at  
8:30 a.m. Bring along a sack lunch and spend  
the day.  
Saturday - apple butter starts at 6:00 a.m. We need  
lots of fire starters and stirrers.  
Today we will be taking new members into the church.  
They are: Kelly Jo, Marge and John Stevenson, Judy  
Winrader and Kathy Goda. Please take a minute and make  
them feel welcome.  
EMERGENCY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS meeting today immediately  
following the service. Please make the effort to be  
there.  
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 30, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

BOOKLETS ON TABLE IN NARTHEX, DAILY BREAD  
LORD'S SUPPER NEXT SUNDAY  
ANNUAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, FELLOWSHIP DINNER AFTER CH

*Nov. REF SHEET*

- \*HYMN
- PRAYER/OFFERING
- \*DOXOLOGY
- PASTORAL PRAYER
- HYMN
- SCRIPTURE: PSALM 1
- SERMON: "LOVING THE WORD" - ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 10/16/88
- \*HYMN
- \*BENEDICTION
- \*POSTLUDE

*SANDY  
TERRY - SURGERY  
JACKIE - CANCEL  
HELEN - SUNDAY  
FLORENCE*

*21 Nov. BABY Shower*

ILUS LAW FIRM/LAWYR W/OUT QUAL ETC)

I SHE WUD AFLAUD JUDG, BUT WAT IS SHOE OTHR FUT=TRESPASSR??

BUT I NO DO THAT, NO DISHONES, ETC

CHARACTERS: LAW FIRM= WORLD

JUDGE= GOD

FAKE LAWYER= SATAN

FAMILY BUESNES= CHURCH - OWNED BY JS XP

QUALITY MERCHANDISE= BIBLE

TRESPASSER= CHURCH MEMBERS

WE INVIT IN & 4MANY NO GROWTH BYON

MUS LERN MERCHANDIZ BIBL - HOW WE HANDL IT?

MT 22:34-40

HOW DO THIS? LERN FR/BIBLE 2APLY PRINCIPLS OF JS & BIBLE

PSALM 1:1=DIF TWEEN SAINT/SINNRR, ( EXPL SAINT)

BLESSED/HAPINES & HAPNES PLURAL

EXPLAIN COUNSEL UNGODLY, LIE/CHEAT/STEAL ETC

VS 2=BIBLE & WAT DUZ G WANT FR/US?? - #2614 -OBEDIENCE

(ILUS OLD WOMAN NO OBEDIENCE)

HOW DO WE OBEY G? WAT IS OUR DELITE? WE MUS OBEY

VS 3=EXPL TREE & HAPINES OF G'S MAN

VSS 4-5=REWARDS 4B G'S MAN/WOMAN

VS 6=HOW G WIL RESOLVDIF TWEEN RITUS/UNRITUS/GODLY/UNGODLY

2ND PRINCIPL LUV OTHRS # 2201

(ILUS WOMAN FITE DEVIL ALL WK=HUSB SAY SHE DIF LIV WITH

EXPERIMENT LUK RT/LFT/AHED BEHIND THINK OTHR PERSON

WE TAUT LUV OTHRS PERIOD, NO CONDITINS

(ILUS DR. CRISWELL & YNG GIRL PROSTITUTE)

THIS WAT CH IS FOR, NO BAKBITE/GOSIP/SLANDER

MUS SHOWR LUV ON OTHRS AS BIN SHOWRD ON US

LUV WE TALK BOUT HERE MUSB CARY OUTSID

(ILUS ALEXANDR GRT & KINGDOM="IT'S 4HIM WHO CAN TAK IT")

WE R PART THAT KINGDM & IT OURS 4TAK, BUT ALSO 2GIV 20THRS THRU JS XP

WE CAN ONLY LUV HIM IF ALSO LUV HIS WORD

FIRST TO LUV G W/EVERYTHING, THEN LUV OTHRS LIK SELVS

WE NEED BRNG SELVS 2XP, & STRIV TO BRNG OTHRS AS WELL



SCRIP: PS 1 ; SERM: "LOVING THE WORD"

(ILUS LAW FIRM & LAWYER W/OUT QUALIFICATINS)

I'M SUR ALL US WUD APLAUD MOV BY JUDG AS LEGAL JUSTIC, ~~TRESPAS~~

BUT WAIT! HOL TH/PHON - WUD WE APLAUD IF IN SHOES ~~YNG LAWYR~~???

MAY ASK- HOW CUD I B IN THOZ SHOES WEN BIN HONES ALL MY LIF???

IT UNTHINKBL I WUD EVR DO ANYTH LIK THAT & MAYB VERY TRUE

B! LETS LK INCIDENT & SORT OUT CHARCTRS:

~~LAW FIRM=~~WORLD ~~JUDGE IS~~ GOD

YNG LAWYR HIRED WHO IS FAKE=~~SATAN~~

FAMLY BUSNES=~~CHURCH~~ ~~OWNED BY GOD~~, ~~FATHER~~, ~~JE~~ ~~XP~~ -SON, & H SP

QUALITY MERCHANDISE=~~BIBLE~~

TRESPASSER/DEFENDANT=MEMBERS WHO CUM INTO FAMLY BUSINESS

DIF LITE ON PARBL,RT??

WE INVIT CUM INTO FAMLY BUSNES=CH,& HAV RITE HAV HAND IN IT

BUT PROB=IS THOZ CUM INTO CH/FAMLY BUSNES & GROWTH END

2B PART CH/FAMLY BUSNES EA MEMBR NEED LERN WAT MERCHANDIS IS

WAT WE SAYIT WAS? ~~BIBLE~~ - HOW DO WE HANDL THAT MERCH??

MT 22:34-40

HOW DO WE LUV G LIK THIS?? LERN MERCH OF TH/BUSNES - TH/BIBLE

WAT JS PTS OUT R PRINCIPLS & THEZ GODLY PRIN,& NEVR CHNG

SCRTP IS BIB PRINC & NEVR,NEVR CHNG

PS 1:1=DIF TWEEN SAINT & SINNR - GODLY & UNGODLY

BLESSED=HAPPY

HAPPINES BASED ON WAT GODLY - NOT WORDLY,CHEAT,STEAL,ETC

VS 2=G'S LAW=BIBL,TEXBUK \* G SPKS 2US FR/IT & WE 2 LUV G

#2614 - THOMPSON CHAIN - READ - OBEDIENCE

(ILUS OLD WOMAN & DISOBEDIENCE)

HOW DO WE SERV G? HOW OBED R WE?? WAT IS OUR DELITE?? - VS 2

WE ASK - WAT'S IN IT FOR ME??

VS 3=G'S MAN IS BLESSED - HAPPY

VSS 4-5=REWARDS FOR BEING G'S MAN/WOMAN

VS 6=HOW G WIL RESOLV DIF TWEEN RITUS/UNRITUS,GODLY/UNGODLY

AND PRINCIPLE=LUV OTHERS - WE R TAUT 2LUV OTHRS

THAT'S BIBLICAL,ITS SCRIPTURAL

#2201 - THOMPSON CHAIN - READ - LUV OTHERS

(ILUS WOMAN FITE DEVIL & HUSBAND SAY=SHE'S TUF 2LIV WITH")

TRUE - EXPERIMENT=LUK PERSN RT,THEN LFT,OR PERSON BSID U

MAY NOT KNO PROBS THAT PERSN HAS,BUT EA HAS THEM

U MAY NEVR HAV SOT TO LUV THAT PERSN BCUZ PRE-CONCEIV NOTINS

OR HERD THIS/THAT BOUT HIM/HER

LISTEN=WE R TAUT TO LUV ONE ANOTHER - PERIOD,NO CONDITINS

(ILUS DR. CRISSWELL & YNG GIRL PROSTITUTE)

THIS WAT CH IS FOR - THIS IS WAT U & I 2B ABOUT

NO MATTR WHO STEPS IN2 CH,GOSIP,BAKBITE MUS CEAS & LUV G SHOWR

ON US,MUSB SHOWR ON OTHRS

LUV WE TALK BOUT HER,MUSB CARY OUTSID

LIK SUN SKUL HYMN=BRING THEM IN,BRING TH/LITTL ONES TO JS

(ILUS ALEXANDER TH/GRT & HIS KINGDOM)

TH/KINGDM IS 4THE TAKING IN TH/NAM OF JS XP

IN HIS NAM WE CAN TAK THIS AREA 4HIM,IN HIS NAM WE CAN TAK THIS

CH & PRESENT IT TO HIM

WE CAN OFFR OURSELVS & ALL OTHRS 4HIS SERVIC

BUT CAN ONLY HAPPN IF WE LUV HIM & LUV HIS WORD

IF LUV HIS WORD WE WIL LUV G 1ST, & THEN LUV ALL OTHRS

WE NEED TO BRING OURSELVS TO XP, & STRIV BRING OTHRS AS WELL

Ilus lawyr fake,& famly busnes:

Law Firm=World

Yng lawyr=Satan

Famly busnes=Ch,own by G,Js Xp, H Sp.

qualty merchandiz=Bible

Trespasr/defendant=Membrs cum in2 famly busnes-Ch

Mt 2:35-36-Lgw G & luv othrs

Principles-absolutes

Ps 1

vs 1=happy is man;counslr,sinnrs

vs 2=Bibl,G's Word=not dear Ab,But Eagl,Wal St Jur

Th/Chain=2614

(Ilus 93 yr old woman & disobed)

Bargin w/G bout time we giv 2Him perhaps

vss 4-5=rewards thoz no folo Him

vs 6=cp tween godly/ungodly

2nd principle=luv othrs-Th/Chain 2201

(Ilus woman testimony & wrestl w/devil=husband)

(Experiment luk at othrs Bsid U)

(Ilus Dr. Criswell & prostitute acpt Xp,join Ch)

Old SS hymn=BRING THEM IN,BRING THEM,IN,BRING THE  
LITTL ONES TO JESUS

(Ilus Alex Grt & genrals ask bout kingdom)



"Loving the word"

Scripture: Psalm 1  
(Ilus lawyer who is a fake & takes ovr family busnes)  
I'm sur all wud aplaud me by judg as B legl justic  
But wait! Hold th/phon!  
Wud we aplaud his decisin if we wer in shoes of ~~Yng lawyer~~ <sup>TREX-PALIER</sup> ~~as?~~  
But U ask=How cud I B in thoz shoes we'll my lif I'v try 2B  
hc it in evrthin? Why it unthinkbl I evr do anyth lik that  
& that mayB very,very tru,but lets lk at incident & sert out  
th/cast of charactrs  
Lets supos Law Firm rep world  
Yng lawyr hired who was fak is Satan  
Famly busnes is Ch & is ownd by G Fathr,Js Xp Son,& H Sp  
qualty merchandiz that sold is Bible  
Trespasser/defendant is memrs cum in2 that famly busnes  
This then put dif lite on parabl duznt it?  
Now truth of matt'r is,we R invit in2 this famly & hav rt Zhav hav  
hand at run it  
But prob ly w/thoz cum in2 ch & growth stop ther  
2B ~~xxxx~~ part ownr of th/Ch ea membr need lern merchandiz of  
th/busnes  
& wat did we say merchandiz was\$ =Th/Bible!  
How do we handl that merchandiz?  
Mt giv illus of Js/Phars/Sadds in Mt 22  
vss 35-36=thi very faml Scrip & U mayB say=I've herd B4  
& U R rite,U hav herd B4,& U wil hear agin Bcuz it import & it  
bears repeat  
Wat is it G wants us 2kno? WE R 2LUV G & WE R 2LUV OTHRS  
its simpl,but how do we discover this?  
How do we lern 2 luv G?  
Ansr is=We do this by kno & undrstan ~~xxx~~ th/merchandiz that is in  
stok in th.famly ownd busnes=THAT IS TH/BIBLE  
Pick this morn pt out 2thez 2things  
1. 2things Js pt out R cal=PRINCIPLES  
Principles R wat we liv by;mos them R absolutes wh/mean they nevr  
chg & Bib principles R Always Absolutes & Nevrr,Nevrr,chg  
regardles wat chng in socity,Bib principles nevr chng  
This Psalm pt out dif tween saint & sinnr  
tween godly & ungodly  
vs 1=If remem Beattituds,word=Blessed means Happy,how happy,or  
tru happiness  
man who Blong 2-G is truly happy  
Counsel=worl say do it,it OK,cheat,steal,etc-but that wrong &  
G's man wil not do it  
G's man duznt liv lik sinnrs,nor is he fil w/pessimism,sour,etc.  
vs 2=Bible,G's Word is texbuk of lif  
It not Zhvy 2bring 2chiwe hnt lern of lif fr/Dear Abby,Butlr  
Eagl,Wal St Jurnl-we lern fr/G's Word  
we lern fr/pages how 2luv G-G spks thru its pages  
Examples fr/Thompson Chain #2614

This how many peo serv Him,wilB obed 2certin pt,& Byon wilnot go  
I almos Bliev sumtimes peo bargin w/G=lik=U can hav Sun morn,  
but that all;or Wed I can spar,but busy othrwise,etc  
Our luv 2-G shudB w/out conditin plac upon it & this wat G try  
2convey in 1st Psalm  
if truly luv G,ther no ifs,ands,buts bout it=it our delite 2liv  
a 2His law & this caus medtat on it day/nite  
this simpl mean we seek things of G & seek 2liv 4 Him  
But mite ask=Wats in it 4me? & ansr fnd remaindr of Psalm=vs 3  
lif giv evidenc of seek aftr G,Bcuz G go 2giv byon wat evr giv 2  
God  
vss 4-5=G pts out rewards of not folo aftr Him  
vs 6=cp tween godly/ungodly & how G resolv livs of ea  
2nd Principle=Luv othrs  
that means luv evn thoz no want 2luv & once agin G's Word tel  
ud this principle unmitakbl wording=Thomps Chain #2201  
We R tol 1st by G,& then by Js Himself,it bears repeat  
(Ilus woman giv tesmony bout wrestl w/devil & husband respond)  
Wel mayB ther R sum peo who seem 2B tuf 2liv with,but if we all  
really try 2put 4th sum extra efort,we may find it canB dun  
(Experiment: Lk persn on rt,No,lk at persn on lef,wel lk suml)  
MayB U dont kno that persn 2wel,but if U wud ask U wud find that  
ea us here this morn hurts sumhow  
& U thot U wer th only 1 w/a prob this morn  
U may nevr hav truly sot 2luv Bcuz U may hav herd this/that bout  
that persn sit nex 2U  
LISTEN! We R taut 2luv 1 nothr & thats strait fr/th/Word  
(Ilus Dr. Crisswell & prostitute jojn church)  
This is wat th/ch is 4  
This is wat U & I R 2B about  
it matt's not who th/persn is who steps in2 th/Ch,th/gosp &  
bakbiting mus ceas & th/luv that G has showrd upon us mus Bgin  
showrd upon thez who dont kno Xp as ther Sav  
That luv needs 2reach outsid of this Ch & lik th/old hymn from  
th/Bginrs clas of our SS used 2sing=BRING THEM IN, BRING THEM IN.  
BRING THE LITTLE ONES TO JESUS  
(Ilus Alexander th/Grt at deth & his Generals ask bout kingdom)  
Th/kingdm is 4 th/taking in th/Nam of Js Xp  
We can tak this area 4 Xp if U R serius about it  
We can tak this ch & presen it 2 Him offr ourselvs & all othrs  
4 His Servic if U really mean it  
But it can only hpm if Nx we R truly luvng th/Word & that  
means luvng G & luvng othrs  
But we mus 1st bring ourselvs  
That invitatin is extend 2U fr/Him-Wat wil U do w/it?

## "Loving The Word"

Scripture: Psalm 1

(Illustration of law firm and lawyer without qualifications)

A large, prominent law firm needed a young, bright young man to be groomed to take the place of one of their firm who had recently retired. They interviewed countless numbers of men and finally chose a very promising young man. Although his credentials were from ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ and a smaller obscure college and ~~law~~ law school, he seemed to have what they were looking for and he was hired.

The first case entrusted to him was a rather important one, but it appeared that even though the verdict would go against their client, the experience would prove to be invaluable to this young man. He was to defend a man who had taken over a prominent family owned business. In this small town, there was a family business that had been in this family for several generations. They sold a variety of merchandise and were a trusted name in that community. One day, without any warning, this man appeared in the store and announced that he was now the owner of the business and everything would be handled by him. Naturally, the real owners protested and took the necessary steps to have this trespasser removed, but he took counter legal steps and the case had to go to court to be decided. This is where the young lawyer came in. His opening remarks to the jury sent a shock wave through the court when he declared that this squatter had the legal right to this family owned business because it was simply there for the taking. The judge was reluctant to let this type of reasoning continue, but as the trial moved on the young lawyer became more and more outrageous in his defense and the judge halted the trial for a few days in order to do some research. His research was into the background of the lawyer and he discovered that this young man was not a lawyer. He had gotten his degrees through the mail for a fee and so the case was dismissed.

I'm sure that all of us would applaud this move by the judge as being legal justice. But wait! Hold the phone! Would we applaud his decision if we were in the shoes of the young lawyer in this case? But you ask, how could I be in those shoes, when all of my life has been spent in trying to be honest in everything? Why it is simply unthinkable that I would ever do anything like that. And that may be very, very true. But let's look at the incident and sort out the cast of characters.

Let's suppose the law firm represents the world.

The young lawyer hired who is a fake is Satan

The family business is <sup>the Church and is</sup> owned by God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, & the Holy Spirit.

The quality merchandise they sell is the Bible.

The trespasser/defendant is the members who come into that family owned business.

This puts a different light on the parable doesn't it? Now the truth of the matter is that we are invited into the family business and we have a right to have <sup>A</sup> hand at running it.

But the problem lies with those who come into the church and that is where their growth ends.

To be a part owner of the Church, each member needs to learn what the merchandise of the business is. And what did we say the merchandise was? The Bible! How do we handle that merchandise?

In Matthew's Gospel there is an illustration that is used which depicts all that is required of man in two simple statements. Jesus has been talking to the Pharisees and the Sadducees and one of the Pharisees ~~xxxxxx~~ confronts Jesus with a question. In the 22nd chapter beginning at the 35th verse we read, (Read verses 35 & 36). Jesus answers him as we read, "Jesus said unto him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'"



That is a very familiar Scripture. And you may be saying, "Yeah, yeah, I've heard this before." And you are right. You have heard it before and you may hear it again, because it bears repeating. What is it that God wants us to know? That we love God and love others. It's simple. But how do we discover this? How do we learn to love God? By knowing and understanding the merchandise that is in stock in the family owned business. That is the BIBLE.

Our Scripture this morning points out both of these things. The two things Jesus pointed out are called "principles." There are all sorts of principles we live by. Most principles are absolutes which means they stay the same and never change. Biblical principles are always absolutes. They do not change with the times or the seasons. Regardless what changes in society, God's principles never, never, change. So it is then that David writes, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful," verse 1.

In this Psalm we see the difference between a godly man, the saint, and the sinner. It is the difference between those who belong to God and those who live apart from God. And the first thing we see is that the saint, is "Blessed." If you recall when Jesus was giving ~~xx~~ what we call "The Beatitudes," the word "Blessed" appeared in front of most of them. We said that word actually meant, "Happy." It means "Happy here as well. It actually means, "How happy." So then it reads, "Happy," or, "How happy," or, "the happiness" of the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. The man who belongs to God, or is God's man, doesn't listen to what the ungodly try to teach him. In the world in which we live we are counseled that it is OK to cheat, (everyone does it), or to tell white lies, (they never hurt anyone); or to do and say a hundred other things which we have been taught by God are wrong. So God is saying that those who do not do as the ungodly, nor seek to follow in sin, nor have a cynical outlook on life are happy.

Then notice what causes the saint of God to be happy. God says, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night," verse 2.

In other words, The Bible, God's Law becomes for the godly person the textbook of life. It is not just something that we open in church on Sunday morning, (if we even bother to carry that 20 or 30 pound weight to church). At least that is what some people would imply because they refuse to bring theirs for whatever their unwarranted reason. The Bible is where we learn of God. It doesn't come from the Butler Eagle, or Dear Abby's column, or the death notices, (although they teach us that life isn't permanent on this earth); nor does it come from the Wall Street Journal. God speaks to us through the pages of His book. The number one Principle is to "Love God." God commands it of us and Scripture after Scripture point this out. (Examples of these Scriptures from 2614 in Thompson Chain ).

(Illustration of 93 year old woman and disobedience)

A man was telling his mother about a friend who had died and left three small children. His mother said, "Why couldn't it have been me? I am ninety-three years old and she was so young. I've worked hard all of my life to serve the Lord, and I'm ready to go."

The man responded, "Mother, the Lord has left you here on earth for a purpose. He must have something else He wants you to do."

And she quickly replied, "Well, I'm telling you right now, I'm not gonna do it."

And that's about the size of how many people serve Him. They will be obedient up to a certain point, and beyond that they will not go. I almost believe that people bargain with God



about their commitment. Maybe they say to Him, "Well God, You can have my Sunday morning, I'll be there for church, but don't expect me to give you the evening, or any other time during the week." Or maybe they say, "Wednesday night I'm free, but gee, my week is pretty full and You shouldn't expect me to give up all my time for You.

Our love to God should be without our conditions placed upon it. This is what God is trying to convey in this 1st Psalm. If we truly love God, this means a commitment to Him without any ands, ifs, or buts. It is our delight to live according to His law, and this causes our response to be meditating upon it day and night. This simply means that we seek the things of God with every waking moment. To live for Him in other words.

But perhaps the question is raised, "What's in it for me, if I do this?" And the answer is found in the remainder of the Psalm. God's man is blessed, (read verse 3). His life gives the evidence of seeking after God, because God is going to give him beyond what he ever gives to God.

God also points out the rewards of not following after Him, ~~xxxxxxx~~ (read verses 4 & 5). And then in the last verse God restates the comparison in capsule form the difference between the godly and ungodly, and how God will resolve the lives of both, (read verse 6). But there is the 2nd principle that God has given to us, and that is the principle of "Love others." Now strangely enough that means many people we don't want to love. Once again, God's Word tells us this principle in clear unmistakable wording. (Read these examples of loving others from Thompson's Chain #2201). We are told first by God, and then by Jesus Himself. It bears repeating.

(Illustration of woman giving testimony of wrestling with the old devil all week).

It was testimony night in the church. A lady got up and said, "We are living in a wicked land where sin is on every hand. I have had a terrible fight with the old devil all week." At this her husband jumped up and said, "It ain't all my fault either; she's tough to live with."

Well, maybe there are some people who seem to be tough to live with. But if we all really tried and put forth some extra effort, we may find it can be done. Let's try an experiment this morning. I want each of you to look at the person on your right! Well, that won't work will it? How about trying to look at the person on your left! Well, try to look somehow at the person sitting next to you. Maybe you don't know that person too well. But if you were to ask him or her, you would find out that somehow, somehow he or she is hurting about something. And you thought you were the only one with problems this morning! But you see, maybe you have never looked beneath that person's surface life. You may never have truly sought to show love because you have a pre-conceived notion because you may have heard this or that about him or her. Listen! We are taught to love one another, that's straight from The Word.

(Illustration of Dr. Crisswell and prostitute accepting Christ)

Dr. Crisswell the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas for over 40 years tells of a time when a young girl who responded to the invitation to accept Christ. She came down the aisle and knelt at the altar rail. As she knelt there she began to cry, and soon was crying and sobbing uncontrollably. When Dr. Crisswell asked her why she was crying, she said, "I've been listening to you preach and I wanted to give my heart to Jesus and become a member of this congregation. But since I came down front here, I've been thinking about my life. I'm a prostitute. If you knew me, and these people knew me, you wouldn't want me in this church. I have a little boy, but I'm lying when I put 'Mrs' in front of my name."



There are those who would turn their noses up at someone like this and say she didn't belong in the church. Then there are those who would say that her lifestyle was nothing out of the ordinary. Many boys and girls are living promiscuously, and besides, you would have had an abortion.

Dr. Crisswell said that he spoke to her and told her that the Holy Spirit had spoken to her heart and that God brought her to Himself to wash her clean and white. Dr. Crisswell then went on to say that he has watched that boy being brought to the Sunday School as a toddler and up through each of the departments and he is now in the youth group.

This is what the church is for. This is what you and I are to be about. It matters not who the person is who steps into the church. The gossip and backbiting must cease, and the love that God has showered upon us must begin to be showered upon those who don't know Christ as their Savior. That love needs to reach outside of this church and like the old hymn from the beginners class of Sunday School used to sing, "Bring them in, bring them in, bring the little ones to Jesus."

(Illustration of Alexander the great at his death and his sons)

When Alexander the Great lay dying, his great generals gathered at his bedside and asked, "Whose is the kingdom?"

He replied, "It's for him who can take it."

The kingdom is for the taking in the name of Jesus Christ. We can take this area for Jesus Christ. In the name of Christ we can take this church and present it to Him, offering ourselves and all others for His service. But it can only happen if we are truly "Loving The Word," and that means loving God and loving others. To do that we need to bring not only others to Christ, but we must first bring ourselves. That invitation is extended to you from Him. What will you do with it?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor                      October 23, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: John Penrod and Lori Weisenstein

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 21 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession ( In Unison) O Lord, have mercy upon us for our miserable offenses against Thee. Spare thou those O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
                    People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Hymn No. 365 "My Tribute"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
                    People - And with Thy Spirit  
                    Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory "Mothers Prayers Have Followed Me"  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "Praise The Lord Who Reigns Above"  
Scripture: Ephesians 1: 3-14  
Sermon: "Loving The Lord"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 363 "To God Be The Glory"  
\*Closing Chimes  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude

+ + + + +                      \*Congregation Standing                      + + + + +

*NEXT WK EXTRA HOUR SLEEP*

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weisenstein have placed the flowers on the altar in memory of Loved Ones.  
Mr. & Mrs. Coyle Fowler will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.  
Ushering today will be Dick Mangel, Dick Dally, Don Kingsley and George Pflugh.  
Attendance last Sunday was 110 with 7 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Chervyl Martin.  
Ken Draxinger and Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital this week.  
Van Driver for October 30th will be Marty Henry.  
Hospitalized:

> SOUP & SANDWICH luncheons are beginning today immediately following the service. They are again hosted by the Youth Group, so please come out and support us and our projects. Plan to share lunch with us.  
RUMMAGE SALE will be held November 3 & 4th daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please remember to hold on to any saleable items for us. You may bring in your items on November 2nd from 10-2 and 6-8. All proceeds from this will go into the Van Fund.  
> We are pleased to have a new Nursery chairman; she is Mrs. Genny Nohach. She will be calling on you to help out in the Nursery on Sundays, so please be willing to serve when called. We need everyone to help us out, not just the same few.  
Volunteers are needed to help the Salvation Army with its annual Christmas assistance drive for the lonely and needy. If you would like to donate some time please call Captain Carver at the Salvation Army at 287-5532.  
> Remember the little white envelopes in the back of the pews are for the St. Paul's Home Alzheimers Disease Center if you would like to contribute to it. This will be done only till the end of the month through the church.  
> November 6th is Election and Adoption of the 1989 Budget. Those nominated for Deacon are: Donley Martin, LuAnn Janicki, Ray Isherwood, Don Kingsley, Myra Colgate, Jim Gannon, Bob Weisenstein, and Daryl Merrison. Those nominated for Elder are Rod Rensel, Paul Reimer and Sandy Sheppeck.  
> APPLE BUTTER pick up is immediately following the service only!!! Not between Sunday School and Church.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE**

November 8 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL      9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

\*\*HYMN-----He Touched Me-----#628

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----Jesus Saves-----#667

SCRIPTURE:      Ephesians 2: 3-14

SERMON:      "Loving The Lord"

\*\*INVITATIONAL HYMN-----It Is No Secret-----#581

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

\*\* Please

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK.....**

- \* Anyone interested in joining the church please see Ralph
- \* **November 15, 1998:** A special offering will be taken for Purpose of finishing the windows.
- \* **November 22, 1998:** Thanksgiving dinner following the Church service. Annual Church meeting.
- \* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

*PICTURES FOR PICTORIAL DIRECTORY*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

November 13-----Jessica Reeger

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...**

*LIZ BETSY LOIS HANE*

*BOB*

*CHALLENGE*

*JOANNE - CANCER*

*MELANIE*

*BARB*

2/  
SO HCM HAS GOD - VS 3B - BLESSED US. ETC?????  
VS 4=WHEN UNDRST THIS,SHUD BGGGL MIND OF EVRY BLIEVR WEN HE UNDRST IMPLICATINS HERE  
HE SAY EVRY PERSN WHO ACCEPT XP AS L & SAV WAS CHOSN BY G 2DO SO B4 GOD EVR BGAN HOS CREATIN OF TH/WORLD  
CAN U PICTUR THAT??? CAN U PICTUR WAT THIS MEANS???  
IT MEANS B4GOD BGAN ANY WORK OF CREATIN HE KNU ANY & ALL WHO PROFES TH/NAM OF JS XP,BY NAME B4 HE BROT ANYTH INTO BEING (ILUS KENNETH MUEST GR PROFESSOR FR/MOODY & HIS EXPLANATIN)  
THIS ELABORATIN WAT APOSTL JOHN WROTE..... 1 JN 4:10.....  
"HEREIN IS LOVE,NOT THAT WE LOVED G, BUT THAT HE LOVED US."  
B4WE EVR KNU BCUT G,IN FAC,B4THER EVR WAS WORL OR THOT BCUT ANY OF US, GOD KNU & PREP TH/WAY TO HIMSELF  
DUZNT THAT GIV SENS OF AWE???  
GOD THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS LUV'D U & KNU U 4CENTURYS & CENTR IT SHUD & WE SHUD GET DWN ON KNEES & GIV ENDLES PR & THANKSGIV WAT DUZ GOD WANT IN RETURN??  
(ILUS HARRY LAUDER & HIS SURENDER TO GOD)  
THAT IS WAT G WANTS - OUR SERENDER -- HAV U EVR SURENDER TO HIM? WE DO SO BY ACKNOWLEDG HE MUSB IN CONTROL OUR LIVS & WE R WIL TO SURENDER OUR WILS TO HIS  
DUZ THIS MEAN ALWAYS FEEL GUD BCUT DO GOD'S WILL??  
EVR SAY=NO FEEL LIK PRAY, NO GO TO CHURCH??? PROR MCS XPANS HAV WE NOT ALONE THIS STRUGL TO LIV DAILY LIVS  
(ILUS MOSES WANT G SLAY HIM BCUZ SIN OF PEOP)  
HAV U EVR QUESTIN G??? I BLIEV ALL TRU BLIEVRS HAV (ILUS PRAY 4WOMAN AFTR MEETING,SON RETURN & SHE WANT WAT ANOTHER WOMAN MEMBR HAS)  
WAT IS THAT??? JS XP IN HER HART & LIP  
SOMTH ONLY CERTIN PEOP HAV???  
NO! SOMTH G WANTS 4EVERYONE  
SURENDER TO G IS WAT IT TAKS & SURENDR IS WAT HE WANTS  
WE R WIL2SURENDR COMPLETELY 2HIM THEN HE WIL 2LIV IN US & B EVIDENT IN OUR LIVS REGARDLES OF CIRCUMS  
(ILUS RICHARD WURMBRAND & CONTINUED WITNES IN SPITE OF BEATINGS)  
HCM CUD THEZ MEN DO THAT???  
WAS IT BCUZ THEY STRNGR THAN ANY OF US???  
IS THER FAITH ANY BETTR THAN CURS???  
NO, NO, NO!!  
TH/ANSR IS GOD  
ONLY A COMPLET SURENDR TO GOD IS TH/ANSR  
WAT IS OUR ANSR TO XXXXXX HIS CALL???  
IS IT LATER ..... OR SUM OTHR TIME???  
WAT PATH WIL WE TRED??? ..... GOD'S OR OUR CWN???  
(ILUS GEO MCDONALD & POEM ON SURENDR TO GOD)  
R U LIVING TH/LORD BCUZ U HAV SURENDERD TO HIM???  
IF U HAVNT WIL U ACPT TH/INVITATIN & CUM & FOLLO HIM???

REF: EPH 1:3-14; SERMON: "LOVING THE LORD"  
(ILUS SS TEACHE,CLASS INATENTIN & HER RESPON TO TH )  
ALTHO MENT WEL & TRY DO JOB TH/LUV OF GOD IS I-C-V-F-  
WHY AND HOW SHUD WE LUV GOD???  
ROMANS 13:10 TELLS US:  
LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW  
IN ORDR 2LUV G WE MUS OBEY HIS LAWS & WEN WE OBEY HIS LAWS, WE MUS LUV IN ORDR 2FUEEL THEM  
ARND 60 OR 61 AD MAN SAT PRISN CEL IN ROME  
MAN HAD BIN MOS ARDENT ANTI-XPAN IN TH/WORLD,YET HE WROTE.....  
VS 3=ALL THAT G HAS IS OURS THRU JS XP  
APOSTL P IS AUTHR OF CORSE  
(COMPAR P 24CONVERSIN & AFTR - HE MET JS & WAS COMIT 2HIM & SOT 2B LIVING TH/LORD & IMPART THIS 2ANY & ALL)  
MESAG 2CH AT EPH 4ALL BLIEVRS THER IS JOY THAT THERS BCUZ OF LUV OF GOD



# "Loving The Lord"

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

(Ilus SS teachr & = Shut up whil I teach U bout th/luv of G)  
Altho she ment wel & was try 2do her duty as teachr,th/luv of G  
IS LOVE

We spok las wk bout wat requir of us & that 2fold principl  
"R=1st = Luv G w/hart/soul/mind  
Then we R 2luv othrs

A part of luv G is 2lern of Him fr/His Word & so we determ as  
Blievrs we shudB=Loving The Word

Lern 2luv G thru His Word is 1st part & 2nd part is lik un2 it,  
that is, 2determ why we shud luv Him

We red sevr1 Scrips las wk that pt ouf we shud obey Him

In Rom 13:10 we read=LUV IS TH/FULFILLING OF TH/LAW  
so in ordr 2luv G we mus obey His laws & wen we obey his laws  
we mus luv in ordr 2fulfil them

Now that may seem lik doubtalk, so lets lk mor closely  
Around 60-61 AD man sat in prisen cel in Rome & this man had bin  
th/mos arden anti-Xpian in th/worl

Yet he wrot=vs 3 of Scrip

Thus Bgins lngest sentenc in Nt

in orig Grk this sentenc exten fr vs 3 to vs 14

Th/authr of cors is Apes P

Afr his conversin on rd 2 Damas, he Bcam th/mos arden folowr of  
Js Xp & th grtes defendr of th/faith in th/worl

Wat was it that made this dramatic turnrnd fr/B th/grtes perse-  
cutr of th/Ch 2Bcum its grretes defendr?

1st of cors was fac 2fac encountr w/Js Xp

but wen Js comisin him 2spreadth/Gospl, he Bcam completly comitd  
2 Luvng Th/Lord

4him this entail use wat had lern bout G as educatd Rabbi & aply  
2wat G did thru Js Xp

pt 2bring 2this Ch at Eph th/measg that 4them & all Blievrs  
ther is joy wh/thers Bcuz of th/luv of G

Wat is that joy? How has G bles us=vs 3B?

in vs 4=P ansr & wat P writ shud bogl any Blievrs mind wen he  
knows th/complet implicatins here

Wat P say is evr persn acpt Xp as L & Sav was chosn by G 2do so  
B4 G evr Bgan creatin of worl.

Can U pictur wat this mean? It mean B4 G evr Bgan any work of  
creatin, He knu any & all who profes nam of Js Xp, by name B4  
Creatin Bgan

(Ilus Kenneth Wuest, Bibl scholar & Moody teachr)

This elaboratin was Apos Jn say his lettr=1 Jn 4:10=HEREIN IS  
LUV, NOT THAT WE LUVD G, BUT THAT HE LUVD US

B4 we evr knu anyth bout G, infac, B4 there was evr worl, or thot  
bout any of us, G knu us & prep way 2 Himself 4us

Duznt that giv U sens of awe, that G creatr all things, luvd U &  
knu U %centuries & centuries?

it shud & we shud get dwn on our knees & giv Him our endles  
praise & thanks giv

One respons is Surrendr

(Ilus Sir Harry Lauder & receiv news of sons deth)

This wat surrendr 2-G all bout; but how do we surrendr 2Him?

Or perhap=hav we surrendr 2Him?

We do this by acknowledg He musB in control thez livs & we R  
wil 2seek His will 4us

mean we alway feel gud bout do His wil? Of cors dont & how  
many times questin prayr, go 2 Ch? & I sur we all do this if  
hones & hav felt G not near. nor w/us

Moses gud exampl G's man this way=(EXAMPL Moses & want 2dy, etc)  
Alfrd Lord Tennyson sed=THEE LIVS MOR FAITH IN HONES DOUBT, BLIEV  
ME, THAN IN HALF TH/CREEDS

& wat hapn wen U doubt G? At sumtim in near futur He did sumth

2mak U awar He ther all th/time

(Exempl pray 4woman at Council & result) dif

This woman sed she saw in one our membs sumth no C othrs

Wat was it? She saw Js Xp shin thru

is this sumth only certin peo can hav?

No! It sumth G want 4ea us

surrendr 2-G is wat it taks, & surendr is wat He wants

wen we wil 2surendr completly 2-Him, then He wil 2liv in us &  
2B evident in our livs regardles of circumstances

(Ilus Richard Wurmbrand & communist beatings of preachrs)

How cud thez men do this?

Was it Bcuz they R strngr than any of us?

Is ther faith that much bettr?

NO! NO!, th only ansr is =GOD

Only a complet surrendr 2 GOD is th/ansr

Wat is UR ansr 2His cal?

Is it=Latr, or, Sum othr time

Wat path wil we tred? God's? or our own?

(Ilus Geo MacDonald & poem, "Path I Feard" #6125-7700 Ilus)

R Luvng Th/Lord Bcuz U hav completly surrendr 2 Him?

If U havnt, wil U acpt His invitatin & cum & folo Him?

(Ilus SS teachr & mas inatentin/disruptiv Bhavior  
& exasperatd shout=WIL U SHUTUP WHIL I TEACH U BOUT LUV OF G?

Rom 13:10=LUV IS TH/FULFILLING OF TH/LAW

Eph 1:3=Bgin lnges sentenc NT

Cp P B4 & aftr conversin

Vs 4 & meaning of it

F Wuest Bibl scholar/Moody Teachr:

WE WER CHOSN IN ETERNITY<sup>B4TH</sup>/univers was formd. but wondr of  
WONDRS, THIS CHOIC WAS NEVR MADE. G CANOT B SED IN TH/LAST ANAL\*  
YSIS 2DECID UPON ANY CORS OF ACTIN. THAT CHOIC IS AS ETRNL AS  
G IS, 4 G HAS HAD THAT INDIVIDUL IN HIS HART 4SALVATIN AS LNG AS  
HE-GOD-HAS BIN IN EXISTENC. WAT A SALVATIN, BASD UPON ETRNL  
CHOIC, WH/EXTENDS THRU TIME IN2, & THRUOUT TH/ETRNLY AFTR TIME  
CEASES. & THEN SUM DEAR CHILDREN OF G R AFRAID THAT AFTR G HAS  
SAVD THEM, THEY CANB LOST

I JN 4:10

(Ilus Sir Harry Lauder on news of son's deth in WW I)

WEN A MAN CUMS 2 A THING LIK THIS, THER R JUS 3WAYS OUT OF IT

THER IS DRINK: THER IS DESPAIR & THER IS GOD

BY HIS GRACE THE LAST IS FOR ME

~~(Ilus woman pray for a son's success in a council results saw diff in a Ch/membr)~~  
~~xxxxxx~~ Alf Lord Tennyson wrot:

THER LIVS MOR FAITH IN HONES DOUBT, BLIEV ME THAN IN HALF TH/CRE

(Ilus woman pray 4at Council-results=saw dif in a Ch/membr)

(Ilus Richard Wurmbrand & Communist beatings)

Geo MacDonald Scottish preachr wrote:

I SED, LET ME WALK IN TH/FIELDSHE SED-NO WALK IN TH/TOWN

I SED, THER R NO FLOWRS THER: HE SED NO FLOWRS, BUT A CROWN

I SED, BUT TH/SKIES R BLAK: THER IS NUTHIN BUT NOIS & DIN

& HE WEPT AS HE SENT ME BAK, THER IS MOR, HE SED, THER IS SIN

I SED, BUT TH/AIR IS THIK & FOGS R VEILING TH/SKY

H NSRD, YET SOULS R SIK & SOULS IN TH/DARK UNDONE

I SED, ISSHAL MIS TH/LITE & FREINDS WIL MIS ME THEY SAY

HE ANSWRD, CHOOZ 2NITE IF I AM 2MIS U OR THEY

I PLEADED 4 TIME 2B GIVN: HE SED IS IT HARD 2DECIDE?

IT WIL NOT SEEM HARD IN HVN 2HAV FOLLOWD TH/STEPS OF UR GUIDE

I CAST ONE LUK AT TH/FIELDS, THEN SET MY FACE 2 TH/TOWN

HE SED, MY CHILD DO U YIELD? WIL U LEAV TH/FLOWRS 4 TH/CROWN?

THEN IN2 HIS HAND WENT MINE: & IN2 MY HART CAME HE

& I WALK IN A LITE DIVIN, TH/PATH I HAD FEARD 2C



## "Loving The Lord"

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

(Illustration of Sunday School Teacher and the love of God)

A Sunday School teacher was trying to teach her class, but her efforts were met with mass inattention and disruptive behaviour. Finally, completely exasperated she shouted, "Will you shut up while I teach you about the love of God!"

Although she meant well and was trying to do her duty as a teacher, the love of God is "Love." We spoke last week about what is required of us and that is a twofold principle. We are to first, love God, and then we are to love others. A part of loving God is to learn of Him from His Word, and so we determined that ~~we~~ as believers we should be, "Loving The Word." ~~But we need to also be, "Loving The Lord."~~ Learning to love God through His Word is the first part, and the second part is like unto it and that is, to determine why we should love Him.

We read several Scriptures which pointed out that we should obey His law. It is in the 13th chapter of Romans the 10th verse that we learn, "Love is the fulfilling of the law." So in order to love God we must obey His laws, and when ~~to~~ <sup>WE</sup> obey His laws, we must love in order to fulfill them. Now that may sound like doubletalk, so let's look at this more closely.

~~There was a Christian~~ Around 60 or 61 A.D. a man sat in a prison cell in Rome. This man had been the most ardent anti-Christian in the world. Yet, he wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ," Ephesians 1:3.

~~His name was Paul and after his dramatic conversion he became the most~~

Thus, begins the longest sentence perhaps in the whole Bible. In the original Greek this sentence extends from verse three through verse fourteen. The author of course was the Apostle Paul. After his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, he became the most ardent follower of Jesus Christ and the greatest defender of the faith in the world. What was it that made this dramatic turnaround from being the greatest persecutor of the church to become its greatest defender? First, of course, was his face to face encounter with Jesus Christ. But when Jesus commissioned him to spread the Gospel, he became completely committed to "Loving The Lord." For him this entailed using what he had learned about God as an educated Rabbi and applying it to what God did through Jesus Christ.

Paul sought to bring to this Church at Ephesus the message that for them and all believers there is a joy that is theirs because of the love of God. What is that joy? How has God "Blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ?" "I'm glad you asked!" we can almost picture Paul as saying as he precludes what these new believers in Ephesus might be asking as they seek to ~~grow~~ grow in the faith.

To answer he adds, (read verse 4.) What Paul has written here should boggle any believer's mind when he knows the complete implications stated here. What Paul is actually saying is that every person who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior was chosen by God to do so BEFORE God ever began His creation of the world. Can you picture what that means? It means that before God ever began any work of creation He knew any and all who profess the name of Jesus Christ, by name, BEFORE He ever brought anything into being.



Kenneth Wuest a Greek scholar and former teacher of Greek at Moody, writing on this says:

"We were chosen in eternity before the universe was formed. But wonder of wonders, this choice was never made. God cannot be said in the last analysis to decide upon any course of action. That choice is as eternal as God is. The name of every Christian is as eternal as God is, for God has had that individual in His heart for salvation as long as He (God) has been in existence. What a salvation, based upon an eternal choice, which extends through time, into, and throughout the eternity after times ceases. And then some dear children of God are afraid that after God has saved them, they can be lost."

This is an elaboration on what the Apostle John was inspired by God to write in his 1st letter, the 4th chapter and the 10th verse, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us."

Before we ever knew anything about God, in fact, before ever there was a world, or a thought about any of us, God knew us and prepared the way to Himself for us. Doesn't that give you a sense of awe, that The God, The Creator of all things loved you and knew you for centuries and centuries? It should and we should get down on our knees and give Him our endless praise and thanksgiving.

Which brings us to the one response that God wants from us in return. That response is one of surrender.

(Illustration of Sir Harry Lauder and receiving the news of his son's death)

Sir Harry Lauder, a Scottish singer and Christian of yesteryear was informed that his only son had been killed in World War I. He said to a friend, "When a man comes to a thing like this, there are just three ways out of it -- there is drink; there is despair, and there is God. By His grace, the last is for me."

This is <sup>what</sup> surrender to God is all about. How do we surrender to Him? Or perhaps we should ask "Have we ever surrendered to Him? We surrender to Him by acknowledging that He must be in control of our lives and we are willing to seek His will for our lives.

But does this mean that we always feel good about doing God's will? Of course we don't. How many times have we said, "I don't feel like praying, or going to church? How many times have we felt that perhaps God has deserted us? I'm sure that each of us, if we are honest can say that there have been moments when God didn't seem real or near. And if we think about this, we can easily determine that we are not alone in this struggle. Many of the strong servants of God have felt this way. Look at Moses as an example! When the children of Israel acted like little children and disobeyed God, what did Moses do? He became angry and he questioned why God ever put him in charge of these infants. He became so angry that he demanded that God take his life right then and there. Have you ever questioned God because He didn't seem to answer or reveal Himself? I believe all true believers have at one time or another. It was Alfred Lord Tennyson who said, "There ~~is more~~ lives more faith in honest doubt, Believe me, than in half the creeds." And what happened when you doubted God? At sometime in the near future He did something to make you aware that He was there all the time. What is the proof of this? Let me share with you something that we were involved in right here in our church. At the close of our last Council meeting, someone made the request that we pray for a woman who was having some real problems. We joined hands and closed our Council meeting by praying together for this woman. We didn't know what her problems were nor did we understand her immediate needs. But we prayed. And do you know what? God answered that prayer in several ways. Her son who had run away from home was found and returned to her and she is seeing that God does answer prayers where once she doubted. She made



the remark to one of our members that there is something different about her and she wants to have what this woman member has. And what is that? It is Jesus Christ in her heart who is evident in this member's life as she goes about her daily life. Is this something that only certain people can have? No! It is something that God wants for each of us. Surrender to God is what it takes, and surrender is what He wants. When we are willing to surrender completely to Him, then He is willing to live in us and be evident in our lives regardless of the circumstances.

(Illustration of Richard Wurmbrand and continued witnessing in spite of beatings)

How could these men do this? Was it because they are stronger than any of us? Is their faith that much better? No! The only answer is - GOD. Only a complete surrender to God is the answer. What is your answer to His call? Is it later? Or, "Some other time?" What path will we tread? God's or our own?

George MacDonald, a Scottish preacher wrote:

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

He said, "No; walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the skies are black,

There is nothing but noise and din."

And He wept as He sent me back,

"There is more," He said; "There is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick

And fogs are veiling the sun."

He answered, "Yet souls are sick,

And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light

And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered, "Choose tonight

If I am to miss you, or they"

I pleaded for time to be given.

He said, "Is it hard to decide?

It will not seem hard in heaven

To have followed the steps of your guide."

I cast one look at the fields,

Then set my face to the town;

He said; "My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine;

And into my heart came He;

And I walk in a light Divine,

The path I had feared to see.

Are you "Loving The Lord" because you have completely surrendered to Him? If you haven't will you accept His invitation to come and follow Him?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 30, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and John Penrod  
+ + + + +  
\*Result of prayer: We want to come away wanting nothing  
but God"  
+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys  
Prayer Requests  
\*Processional Hymn No. 9 "Teach Us What We Yet May Be"  
\*Ascription  
\*Exhortation  
\*Confession (In Unison) Merciful Father, we acknowledge  
and confess our sinful nature; our shortcomings and  
our offenses. We have betrayed not only our faith  
in you, but also your faith in us. We have spoken  
bravely of love and compassion, but we have acted  
not out of love but of selfishness and indifference.  
Forgive us, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.  
\*Gloria Patri - page 142  
Children's Moment  
Hymn No. 607 "Where He Leads Me"  
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.  
Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory  
\*Doxology - page 382  
Anthem: "I Want to be a Sheep/I've Been Redeemed/Our God  
Scripture: Philippians 1: 1-11 Reigns"  
Sermon: "Choices"  
\*Invitational Hymn No. 409 "Who Is On The Lord's Side?"  
\*Closing Hymns

\*Benediction  
\*Postlude  
+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mrs. Kathy Goda in honor of her mother Ethel Walrond.  
Mrs. Catherine Johnston will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.  
Serving as Ushers today are Marge Smiley, Lucille Tack,  
Deb Melton and Genny Nohach.  
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 7 visitors.  
Nursery will be provided by Mrs. Rhonda Vinroe.  
Van Driver for November 6th will be Dick Dally.  
Bonnie Gannon and Helen Riemer will be visiting the  
hospital this week.  
Hospitalized:  
➤ RUMMAGE SALE hosted by the Activities Committee will be  
held on November 4th & 5th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.  
Please keep any saleable items for us until November  
3rd. This is when you can bring in your items.  
(10 to 2 and 6 to 8). All proceeds from this will go  
into the Van Fund.  
➤ ST. PAUL'S ALZHEIMERS CENTER - the little white envelopes  
in the pews are for this. If you would like to contrib-  
ute through the church, remember today is the last day.  
After today all contributions should be mailed directly  
to the center.  
➤ ELECTION & ADOPTION OF 1989 BUDGET will be held on Novem-  
ber 6th. Those nominated for Deacon are: Donley Martin,  
LuAnn Janicki, Ray Isherwood, Bob Weisenstein, Don  
Kingsley, Myra Colgate, Jim Gannon and Daryl Morrison.  
Those nominated for Elder are: Rod Rensel, Paul  
Riemer and Sandy Sheppeck.  
Volunteers are needed to help the Salvation Army with its  
Christmas drive. If you would like to donate some of  
your time, call Mr. Carver at the Salvation Army.  
Flowers are needed for the altar for November 13th. If  
you would like to purchase them in memory of someone,  
please let the office know.  
➤ Reminder: Please return your talent sheets and pledge  
cards to the office by November 20th.  
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. - November 1, 1992

Prelude  
Greetings/Joys/Announcements/Prayer Requests

NOTE = CHOICES XPIAN

ANNUAL MEETING/DINNER = NOV 15

Ascription

Call to Worship:

THE LORD UPHOLDETH ALL THAT FALL, AND RAISETH UP  
ALL THOSE THAT BE BOWED DOWN.

THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS IN ALL HIS WAYS,  
AND HOLY IN ALL HIS WORKS. PSALM 145:14, 17.

\*Hymn  
Offering/Prayer

\*Doxology  
Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

Sermon: "Choices" St. Paul's Butler, Pa. ~~xxxxxx~~ 10/30/88

\*Hymn  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude

FAMILY

SHAFER - MUMFORD

MARFRET

MAR KUER

LAIRD

SOMEONE ASKED A BLACK MINISTER ONCE WHAT THE WORD  
"ELECTION" MEANT.

HE SAID, "BRETHREN, IT IS THIS WAY.

THE LORD IS ALWAYS VOTING FOR A MAN, AND THE DEVIL  
HE IS ALWAYS VOTING AGAINST HIM.

THEN THE MAN VOTES, AND THAT BREAKS THE TIE."

(Ilus Tom Wilson, kild sidewalk Detroit)

(Ilus Blak minstr & electin=Th/L is always vote 4  
th/man & Devil always vote agin him; then man him-  
self votes & that breaks the tie)

vss 3-7=lettr aftr 10yrs & constan prayr 4them  
8=seat emtoin, affectin

9=dif tween choic adults/childrn, teens  
(Ilus mothr 2boys & choic of cereal 4 brkfst)

(Ilus hi skul girl & obey parents)

vs 10A=Excellent choices - how mak them?

(Ilus man jump on ferry but it cum in 2dok)

Vs 10B-11=tru sincerty & glorify God

Sincerty=judg in sunlite

Eng deriv fr/Latin=without wax

(Ilus honey & sculpture)

(Ilus Livingstone & classmate in SS)

Josh declar=CHOOZ U THIS DAY WHOM U WIL SERV

AS FOR ME & MY HOUS, WE WIL SERV THE LORD

Whom wil U serv?

Whom wil U chooz?

# "Choices"

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

(Ilus Tom Wilson, motorcycle gang, killed on sidewalk Detroit)  
How duz yng man fr/Ch, a Xpian get fr/Ch 2dy on bludied sidewalk of big city?

ansr, painful, but obvius-it is matt'r of choices

We can pr & teach bout-Luv Th/Word, of of Luv Th/Lord, & giv all th ansrs necessary 4 anyl's lif, but ult decis wat persn go 2do w/his/her lif is matt'r of ther=CHOICES

Lif is mor than acptanc of Xp, that is only Bgining

It fr/then on that Choices Bcum mor & mor import Bcuz then we R 2B liv 4 th/Lord

(Ilus blak minstr & his fw definitin of Election)

That may notB th/way electin defin Theo, but it tru

Man maks th/choic wh/determ who he go 2foloin this ertly lif that choic determ not only ertly lif, but his etrnl destiny as wel

that why P had such strng desir 4 th/ch's he startd

Afrt custmary greet fnd 1st 2-vss, P relat tru feelings 2ward

thez Xpian frends, P tels them-vss 3-7

Imagin receiv lettr fr/suml afrt bout 10yrs hav pas sinc last saw, herd from, & read in all that tim, that persn has bin pray 4U This pictur as thez peco in Philpi red thez memrb'l words

Altho P in litrl chains in Romn prsn he tel thez peco he had bin centinuly pray 4them

They had made choic of cum 2 Xp & start Ch wh/activ, flourish &

th/one who bin instru in fnd cong constant pray 4 them

vs 8=P try relat how strngly felt 2ward them & use languag of that day wh/expres in intestins, bowels, it thot was seat of emotins

th/words=Bowels translat actuly mean=affectin, thus mak mor mean'ngful 4us

9=here P tel them wat his prayers had bin 4them

He say he pray 4thez Ch membs that ther luv 4 th/L may gro & gro & that they may mak th/rite choices 4 ~~thkxrxixx~~ life

We liv in society deman constan choices 4us

4adults choices mayB sumwat easier, but 4 teenagrs & yng peopl

th/choices R not always that easy

th/reason B, many voics hgt us fr/all sides mak selectin of

choices rathr dif 4thoz hav no exper w/many rts & wrngs

consequently hav probs of sex/drugs/dishonesty etc

that is why it incumbant upon thoz of us who kno bettr 2

steer our yng peopl 2 mak th/propr choices

2 relinq that duty as many parents & grwnups do is criminal

2say th/least, & certinly UnXpian

(Ilus mothr, 2 boys & choos brkfst cereal)

Cur livs madeup choices & we mus determ th/rt choices G desir us 2mak

(Ilus high school girl & obey parents bout party)

Grudingly she made rt choic & then saw th/wisdom of ner parents in refus 2let her go

wen we yngr we mus depend upon othrs oldr & wisr seeking 2

guid us in "Knowledg & in all judgment"-vs 9B

Wen we Bcum of age we shud enuf comon sens 2mak th/propr choic vs 10A=P sed he not only pray 4 peco in Ch in Phil 2gro in mor knowledg & 2mak th/propr judgments, but he pray they mak th/rt choices

This mean we not only mak choices, but thez choices R excelent, & this mean they R th/very best we can mak

This taks discernment 2 chooz properly, & how do we mak thez excelent choices?

(Ilus man wakup late, & jump on feery & discovr in cuming in)

We mus anylz situ B4 we mak our choices

this avoid jump 2-~~xxxxxxixix~~ wrong conclusins

Vss 10B-11=Wat decisins we mak in lif R 2B made in tru sincerty & dun 2glorfy G

That shud mak us ask quest-R my decisins 4/th/events my lif, seek 2giv glory 2-G?

Or do I mak decisins basd on wat best 4 me?

I wud Bliev mos us mak decisins basd on wat bes 4 me, wat we deem in our bes intrests

Th/membs ch/Phil knu wat P was say bout sincerty Bcuz they wer suroun by lot insincerty

Sincerty mean=judgd in th/sunlite

Engl word fr/Latin wh/mean=without wax

(Expl honey & ~~xxxxxxixix~~ sculptur w/out wax-sincere)

So P say choices musB made in sincerty, w/out wax & thez cudB

held up 2sunlite 4inspectin

All of this if tru, wud seek 2 glorfy G

(Ilus Livingstone & clasmate at funereal)

They both made ther choices

for God, the othr agin Him

Wat R th/choices we R seek 2mak?

Wil th/choices we decid on glorfy G?

Or wil they glorfy us?

Joshua declard wen ther was choic 4 a liftim 2B made=CHOOZ U THIS

DAY WHOM U WIL SERV:AS 4ME & MY HOUS WE WIL SERV THE LORD

Whom wil U serv?

Whom wil U chooz?



## "Choices"

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

(Illustration of Tom Wilson, member of motorcycle gang shot in Detroit)

His name was Tom Wilson. Tom was a member of the "Third Reich" a Neo-Nazi motorcycle gang in Detroit. He and his girlfriend had just parked their motorcycle in front of a drug store. A van drove by, slowed down, the window lowered, and a machinegun opened fire sending Tom's body sprawling on the sidewalk with eight bullets in him. He was just another victim of a gang war. Or was he?

The newspaper clipping had been placed on the desk of the Pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. The business manager of the church stepped into the Pastor's office and it was then that the mystery was unraveled for him. Tom's family had been pillars of that church. Tom had grown up attending church with them, had been baptized in the church, been a prominent member of the youth group, and a faithful member of the Sunday School.

But the question is, "How does a young man get from the church to dying on a bloodied sidewalk in the big city?" The answer is ~~obvious~~ painful, but obvious. It is a matter of "Choices." We can preach and teach about "Loving The Word," or, "Loving The Lord," and give all of the answers necessary for anyone's life. But the ultimate decision of what a person is going to do with his or her life is a matter of their "Choices." Life is more than the acceptance of Christ. That is only the beginning. It is from then on that "Choices" become more important because we are then living for the Lord.

(Illustration of black minister and his definition of election)

Someone asked a black minister once what the word "election" meant. He said, "Brethren, it is this way. The Lord He is always voting for a man, and the devil he is always voting against him; then the man himself votes, and that breaks the tie."

That may not be the way Election is defined theologically, but it is true. Man makes the choice which determines who it is he is going to follow in this life. That choice determines not only his earthly life, but his eternal destiny as well. That is why Paul had such a strong desire for the churches that he had started.

After his customary greeting as found in the first two verses, Paul relates his true feelings toward these Christian friends. He tells them, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in ~~every~~ every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the Gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace." verses 3-7.

Imagine receiving a letter from someone after about 10 years have passed and reading that in all of that time that person has been praying for you. This is the picture as these people in the church in Philippi read these memorable words. Although Paul was literally in chains in a Roman prison he is telling these people that he has always been praying for them. They had made the Choice of coming to Christ and starting this church which was active and flourishing and the one who had been instrumental in founding that congregation was in constant prayer for them.

Paul trying to relate to them how strongly he felt toward them goes on to say, "For God is my record, how greatly I long after you in all the bowels of Jesus Christ."

Paul is using the language of that day in expressing his love for these people. It was believed that in the bowels, or the intestines that the seat of emotions was located. The word "bowels" could be translated "Affection," thus making it more meaningful for us.



It is then that Paul tells them what his prayers have been for them. He adds, "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgement."

He is saying that he is praying for these church members that their love for the Lord may grow and grow, but that they may make the proper "Choices," for life.

We live in a society that demands constant choices from us. For adults, the choices may be somewhat easier. But for children and teen-agers, and young people the choices are not always that easy. The reason being that many voices hit us from all sides making the selection of choices rather difficult for those that have no experience with many rights and wrongs. Consequently, we have the problems of drugs and sex, dishonesty and so on. That is why it is incumbent upon those of us who know better, to steer our young people to make the proper "Choices." To relinquish that duty as many parents and grownups do is criminal to say the least and certainly un-Christian.

(Illustration of mother, two boys and choosing the breakfast cereal)

There is a story of the mother who had two sons. One was two years older than the other and easily influenced by his pals. The older boy was in the fourth grade and the younger boy in second. The older boy had started running with some boys who were pretty wild for that age and he had picked up their rather rough language. The mother was trying to break him of swearing and she was nearing the end of her patience. So one morning the two boys sat down to breakfast and the mother asked the oldest boy what kind of cereal he wanted for breakfast. He answered by saying, "I'll take some of those blankety, blank crispy ~~XXXX~~ crunchies," using swear words. At this the mother reached out and smacked him in the mouth knocking him and the chair over and on the floor. With that she looked at the younger boy and asked, "What kind of cereal do you want?" He said, "Well, I sure don't want any of those crispy crunchies."

Our lives are made up of "Choices" and we must determine the right choices God desires us to make.

(Illustration of high school girl and obeying parents)

A minister tells of a high school girl coming to him one Sunday morning after church and telling him that ~~xxx~~ she thought her parents were too restrictive. There was a party being held at one of her friends houses the next Friday and they would not let her go. She said that all of her friends would be there. And she asked, "Don't they trust me? After all, I'm not a child anymore." The minister tried to tell her as lovingly as he could that she needed to obey her parents and he was not going to intercede for her. She walked away defeated and dejected.

The next Sunday she came to see him again and he asked, "Well, what did you do? Did you obey your parents, or did you sneak off to the party?" She answered brightly, "I listened to my parents, and I'm glad I did. Some of the people who went to that party brought drugs and the booze flowed freely. The party got very loud and the neighbors called the police and some of my friends were arrested."

Grudgingly she made the right choice and then saw the wisdom of her parents in refusing to let her go. When we are younger we must depend upon others older and wiser seeking to guide us in "Knowledge and in all judgement." When we become of age we should have enough common sense to make the proper "Choices."

Paul said that he was not only praying for the people in the church at Philippi to to grow in more knowledge and to make the proper judgements, but he was praying, "That ye may approve things that are excellent," verse 10A.

This means we not only must make "Choices," but that those "choices" are excellent and this means they are the very best "Choices" we can make. This takes discernment to choose properly. How do we make excellent "Choices?"



(Illustration of man waking up late and jumping on the ferry only to discover it was coming in and not going out).

We must analyse the situation before we make our "Choices." This avoids jumping to the wrong conclusions.

Paul stated why it was important that the very best, or "excellent" choices be made by adding "That ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Verses 10B and 11.

What decisions we make in life are to be made in true sincerity and done to glorify God. That makes us ask the question, "Are my decisions for the events of my life seeking to give Glory to God? Or do I make decisions based on what is best for me?" I would believe that most of us make our decisions based on what we deem in our best interests. The members of the congregation at Philippi knew what Paul was saying about sincerity, because they were surrounded by a lot of insincerity. The word "sincerity" is from two words which actually mean, "Judged in the sunlight." ~~xxxxxxwaxxxillustrationsxthatxxxxxxwax~~  
~~usedofxxxThexxxxxxtheexpurificationxxofxxhoneyxxhoneyxthatxhadxxbeenxxprocessedxxproperlyxxhad~~  
~~xxxxxxfxxx~~ We get our English word from the Latin derivative of the Greek which means "without wax." Two instances of this have to do with honey and with statuary. Honey that was not properly refined would show cloudy when held up to sunlight thus showing that not all of the wax had been removed from it. By the same token statues or busts that were ordered by people many times were defective. In carving the statue or the bust, the sculptors chisel may have slipped and cut off the nose or an ear, or a finger. Instead of starting over on a new piece of marble or stone, an unscrupulous sculptor would form a new nose or ear, or finger out of wax. Unless the piece of sculpture was examined very closely, the deception was almost impossible to detect. But if the statue was taken in the direct sunlight, not only would the deception be revealed, but quite often the wax would melt thus proving the ~~xxx~~ attempt at deception by the sculor. So Paul is saying that "Choices" must be made in sincerity, "Without wax," and these could be held up to the sunlight for inspection. All of this if true would seek to glorify God.

(Illustration of Livingstone and his classmate)

The funeral procession for David Livingstone was one of the greatest that London had ever seen. The streets were lined with people paying homage to this great man of God who gave his life to serve God in Africa. In that crowd of people there was a shabbily dressed bum who pushed his way to the front of the crowd that lined the sidewalk. He was pushed back by the crowd who resented his intrusion. But as he pushed back time after time, and he continued to try to get to the front he cried out, "I have a right to see David Livingstone. I know him better than any of you. We were in Sunday School together. He decided for Christ; I decided against Him."

They both made their "Choices". One for God, one against Him. What are the "Choices" we are seeking to make? Will the "Choices" we decide on glorify God? Or will they glorify us?

Joshua declared when there was a choice for a lifetime to be made, "Chose you this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Whom will you serve? Whom will you choose?

Before Church, talk to God  
During Church, let God talk to you  
After Church, talk to others.

\*\*\*\*\*  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 6, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Nicole Merrison and Mike Brinker

\*\*\*\*\*  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude  
Chiming of the Hour  
Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 454 "Trust and Obey"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God, who is rich in  
mercy to all who call to you: hear us as we humbly  
confess our sin and implore your forgiveness. We  
have broken your laws by our deeds and words. We  
confess our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride  
and selfishness, and all of our failures and short-  
comings toward you and our fellow man. Have mercy  
on us Father, that we may enjoy newness of life.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 469 "Higher Ground"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "I Got A Robe"

Scripture: Matthew 6: 19-21

Sermon: "Pre-Arrangement"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 497 "Like a River Glorious"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*\*\*\*\* \*Congregation Standing \*\*\*\*\*

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Dorothy, Irene and Paul Forcht in memory of their  
Mother.

Mr. & Mrs. George Pflugh will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.

Serving as Ushers today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Jeff  
Snyder and Frank Crawford.

Attendance last Sunday was 136 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Pam Tait.

Van driver for November 13th will be Ken Draxinger.

Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the  
hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Bill Winters in BMH.

> Immediately following the service today we will meet in  
Rehoboth Hall for our Election, Adoption of the Budget,  
and discussion regarding the purchase of a Van. We  
hope you will make every effort to be there! *PRAY - NOT FOR  
CONTEST*

TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS are due in this month.  
Please fill them out and return them to the office or  
drop them in the offering plate. We need these to set  
up our committees and workers for next year. Every one  
has a talent, so lets use them by signing up now.

> Date they are due back is November 20th.

> CHRISTMAS CANTATA is now in progress. However, we are  
looking for a few more voices to add. Please come and  
join us at 8:00 P.M. on Thursdays and join in our way  
of sending a Christmas message.

> SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS are scheduled to have a teachers *OTHERS  
ALSO*  
meeting on Tuesday evening at 7 P.M. Please be there!  
We need your help with the Christmas program.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. 11/8/92

Prelude

Greetings/Joys/Announcements/Prayer Requests

Annual congregational meeting w/dinner after church 11/15

Ascription

Call to Worship:

THE LORD IS NIGH UNTO ALL THEM THAT CALL UPON HIM,

TO ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM IN TRUTH.

HE WILL FULFILL THE DESIRE OF THEM THAT FEAR HIM:

HE ALSO WILL HEAR THEIR CRY AND SAVE THEM. PS. 145:18-19

\*Hymn

Offering/Prayer

\*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

Sermon: "Pre-Arrangement" St. Paul's Butler - 11/6/88

\*mn

\*ediction

\*Postlude

LAINO

JEAN

CORA

"Pre-Arrangement"

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

(Illustration preacher read humrus news story in strng twm)

It amt 2mattr of perspectiv;wat acptbl l plac is unacptbl nothr

wat funy l plac,not funy nothr & gud exampl perspectiv fnd dif

societys=(Ilus Dr. Stowell & fat womn Africa)

U it all mattr perspectiv & as mod day Americns we sweat,diet

& all sorte things 2get trim

2thoz peo=Fat Is Wher Its At,& 4us Thin Is In

4Xpians it much sam way,we liv in worl whos values R def dif  
fr/out

We R peo of specil kngdm & that why P inspir 2writ=Col 1:13

G HATH DELIVRD US FR/TH/POWR OF DARKNES,& HATH TRNALATD US IN2

TH/KINGDM OF HIS DEAR SON

that mean we liv in uniqu way & means we R aliens in foreign lan

At His trial Js sed=MY KINGDM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

our unagu postin is that we R membris of that kngdm,but whil we

liv here on erth we R subj 2th/stres & strain of mak liv,rais

our famlys,& keep on liv this lif,whil seek 2liv 4th/L as wel

Th/peo who suroun Js wen He spok 2them in wat Cal=Serm Mt,

wer peo exacly like U & I

They wer nervus bout lif;they had cares/concerns 4ther famlys

& frends;& they anxius bout liv lif

So Js sed 2them=READ vss 25-34

brokn dwn 2its simples form Js say our livs R 2B liv promot the

kingdm of Xp & participat in it whil liv

So wat duz mean=Seek 1st Kingdm of G?

we need 2work 2ern liv;we need transportatin;we need fud &

cloth,a hous & all th/things this lif

How do we put all in propr perspectiv?

Th/ ansr lys in that wh/red as Scrip this morn=Read vss 19-21

fr/thez ther R 2quests we mus deal with:

FI 1st=Wat R treasurs in hvn?

& simples ansr is they R things dun on erth th,t wil hav impac

on eternty

SECOND=How do I establish treasurs in hvn?

Duz this mean I mus scrap evrth this lif,or lead sum sort monast

lif? w/out worlds guds?

No G duznt requir that;Js taut us we had 2liv in th/worl,but

that we shud not B 2 OF th/worl

quit simply this mean,that of necesty we mus liv norml erthly

lif but that lif not 2B liv as tho this erthly lif wil go on

4evr here

So how do we lay up treasurs in hvn?

How do we send them on ahead or mak=Pre-Arrangements?

TIME: This is nuth in lif quit as valubl as time

We can spend time in worthwhil things or we can wast time endles

We can inves our time in livs othr peo & seek 2pt them 2th/L

by giv of ourselvs

But how many us wen ask 2giv of our time w/in th/Ch respond with=

Wat wil we answr th/L wen He asks="Wat did U do w/all th/time I gav U on erth?"

CHILDREN: 1 mos precius asets R th/childrn G has givn us Now I kno ther R thoz who can ritly say,I no hav childrn But wat R U do w/childrn of othrs?

C it incumbnt on ea us 2B concern & care bout ALL childrn R giv time 2help prpe childrn 4lif in th/worl?

R we involv in SS? If not,why not?

R we seek 2 pt childrn 2fulm Xpian servic 4 th/L?

Or R we seek 2hav our childrn folo th/career we feel they shud folo?

Ther R many giftd childrn who will simply drift in2 secular emplo afr coleg or hi skul 2mak liv wen hav talents/gifts wh/G has givn 2them wh/cudB use 4 G's kingdm that duznt mean all childrn shud go in2 Xpian work,but 2tak job in steel mill/bank/busnes ofic shudB as much a cal 4anyone as th/cal 2B minstr,misionary, or Xpian Ed workr

Is th/plac of employ,or skul 2wh/U R direc childrn,th/plac wher G wud hav them?

MONEY: if we R hones we mus admit mony play import rol in all our livs

We simply canot exis w/out it

G no ask us 2mak selvs destitut,but lets B hones

How many of us R actuly giv sacrificily 4 G's kingdm?

How many us r mor concern tak care our comfs insted of seek 2 giv as G ~~xxxxxx~~ has prosprd us?

How much our mony Blong 2-God? ALL OF IT is answr

Ther4 Blong 2Him,& we ought 2B use 4 Him & His kingdm as He direc Do we ask G wat He wud hav us do 2ward this end? ~~xxxxxx~~

Or do we decid 4 Him?

TALENTS: G creat ea us w/cert talents/gifts/abiltys wh/R ult ours us has cert gifts wh/shudB usd 4th/advancmen G's kingdm

Ma cong is a flock,lik sheep

U R my flock wh/G entrus 2my care & keep;As I lk at our sheep I C all kinds;sum our sheep R wil 2giv of time/talent 2serv othr sh sheep of flock

sum our sheep R very selfish & tak all they can fr/th/Ch & giv littl if nuth bak; sum sheep dont evn bothr shoup 4feed time they get ther feed fr/many othr places,but not here,wher th/Hed Shepherd wants them 2B fed from

Then ther R sheep who hav-nevr determ wat ther rol in fold shudB I truly luv my flock: U R my famly,U R my frends;I luv ea one of U dearly,but it grieves me deeply that sum of U wil not get invol in th/work of this flock

If all of us wud use jus one gift G has givn us we cud acomplish so much mor 4 G's kingdm

Wat kind of Pre-Arangmen R we making 4 eternty? is wat we mus ea ask ourselvs

(Ilus preachr & =NORMAL BOY MARRYS OBLONG GIRL)  
(Ilus Dr. ~~Schweil~~-Timbuktu,Afr & fat womn)  
IF UR WIF IS ON CAML & CAML CANOT STANUP,UR WIF IS BUTIFUL

Col 1:13=G HATH DELIVRD US FR/TH/POWR OF DARKNES,& HATH TRANSLATD US IN2 TH/KINGDM OF HIS DEAR SON

a. rail Js sed=MY KINGDM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

vss 25-34=WAT MEAN SEEK KIENGDM OF G?

vss 19-21

2 quests:

WAT R TREASURS IN HVN?

HOW DO I ESTABLISH TREASUR IN HVN?

TIME

Children

Money

Talents

(Exempl of flock & sheep entrust 2 me)

2things wh/wil las 4ever:

Mt 5:17-18- Word of God

Church-on this rok I wil bild my Ch,& gates hell wil not prevail against it - Ch=People

W of G & people

(Ilus Padrewski encouargg yng boy at piano)

R U MAK PRE-ARANGMEN?

WHER IS UR TREASU?



Ther R 2 things wh/wil las 4evr, thez 2things R wat Js taut His  
followrs that wer of importanc 2 Him  
In th/Serm on Mt tol thoz peo assembl in Mt 5:17-18=READ THIS  
Th/1st thing wh/wil las 4evr is=TH/WORD OF GOD  
R we inves our time wisely in seek 2lern wat G's Word tel us 4  
send ahead our treasurs?  
Second thing last 4evr was spokn of by Js B4 ascend in2 hvn  
He sed=UPON THIS ROK I WIL BILD MY CH,& TH/GATES OF HELL SHAL  
NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT  
Wat is th/Ch? It is people - People who R liv 4Him  
2things only that wil last 4evr=G's Word & People  
R we invest our livs in them?  
(Ilus. Padrewski encourag yng boy at piano)  
In our livs it is Mastr who suroun us & whispr our ears=Dont quit  
keep playing  
& as He ad 2our serv he encourag us 2continu play piano of lif  
Note by note He ad 2our livs & suplements thez livs w/His hvnly  
sic  
A th/whil we play we R add 2musicl scor wh/our treasur that we  
R send on ahead  
& wen scor is complet,& He cal us home, we can hear His whisprd  
"WEL DUN"  
R U mak Pre-arrangments in hvn?  
Wher is Ur treasur?  
ICMEL: 11 me B pones me mla equit monl bjeal tmbolr koj zu wjj onl  
G mng nra pmonl  
1a fr/bjao of embjoul'ox ekuj smu/n B qtlao crjtjqln'fr/bjao mnel  
fr/cuj SB mnerl'mjetojwll' ol xbtan p morkl  
1u areej mjjj/ranj/ranen oitc mngq we mncr a sej nelyone we  
frat qnnt ween wjj crjtjqln mngq ko tuz xbtan mork'pnt scak lop  
ajao sren m/snq nre p G's krtjqln  
wrtl cojek ol p' ekuj smek jta men nra tjtent/Brtan m/s nra  
frat B menl wrtjqln crjtjqln bro mjj wrtjqln wrtjqln tuz wescrtjqln embjo  
tojos  
Ol B me week smel onl crjtjqln tojo fr/cselec me teej fral mng  
B me week B fr crjtjqln stjrtm xbtan welayo p fr/lj  
B me tuloja 1u nra 11 nra' mra nra  
1a fral tme sretj blbe crjtjqln mjj 1u fr/mojl  
C 11 tucmpt on ea na SB conceln B wale pnt wtt crjtjqln  
mra mra B n qo m/crtjqln of crtlao  
nom 1 kno fral B pmon mro sen 11rtj wrl'1 no nra crjtjqln  
CHITEN: 1 moe blactne wera B fr/crtjqln B nra rtan na  
1 wra n on crtlao  
mra mjj me wra fr/l men me wra="mra qit n qo m/sj fr/tme  
11n 100 mra'1 donl nra mnen

## "Pre-Arrangement"

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

(Illustration of preacher reading humorous news stories in strange towns)

The newspaper headline ~~xxxx~~ on the society page read, "Normal boy marries oblong girl." When the visiting preacher read that from the pulpit there was no reaction from the congregation because to them it wasn't funny.

This minister would buy the Saturday evening paper in any town where he was preaching the next day. He was aware that if there was a local disaster, the mood of the people would be different than if the local high school was playing in the football or basketball play-offs. So he looked for something humorous to use and when he was in Bloomington, Illinois this was one of the headlines. There are two towns near Bloomington named Normal and Oblong which struck him as funny. So he quoted that, but received no reaction because to the people in that congregation those towns are a part of their local language and they couldn't see the humor in it.

It amounts to a matter of perspective. What is acceptable in one place is unacceptable in another; or what is funny in one area is not in another. A good example is the perspective to be found in different societies.

(Illustration of Dr. Stowell in Timbuktu, Africa and fat women)

A minister tells of visiting the mission field in Timbuktu, Africa. In that particular area and culture the larger the women are, the more beautiful they are thought to be. One particular missionary had a very small and thin wife. The local nationals there told him she was a bad reflection on him - that he was obviously was not providing well enough for her.

There is a proverb in that part of Africa which says that if your wife is on a camel and the camel cannot stand up, your wife is beautiful.

You see, it's all a matter of perspective. As modern day Americans we sweat and diet and do all sorts of things to get trim. To those people, fat is where it's at, while for us thin is in. For Christians, it is much the same way. We live in a world whose values are definitely different from ours. We are people of a special kingdom. That is why Paul was inspired by God to write in Colossians 1:13, "(God) hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son."

That means we live in a unique way and that means we are like aliens in a foreign land.

At His trial Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." Our unique position is that we are members of that kingdom, but while we live here on earth we are subject to the stress and strain of making a living, raising our families, and keeping on living this life, while seeking to live for the Lord as well.

The people who surrounded Jesus when He spoke to them in what we call "The Sermon on the Mount" were people exactly like you and I. They were nervous about life; they had cares and concerns for their families and their friends; and they were anxious about living life. So it was that Jesus said to them, (read verses 25-34). Broken down to its simplest form Jesus is saying that our lives are to be lived promoting the kingdom of Christ and participating in it while we live. So what does it mean to "seek first the kingdom?" We need to work to earn a living; we need to have transportation; we need food and clothing, a house and all of the things of this life. How do we put all of this in proper perspective? The answer lies in that which we read as our Scripture for this morning. (Read verses 19-21). From this there are two questions we must deal with. The first question is, "What are treasures in heaven?" The simplest answer is that they are things done on earth that will have an impact on eternity. The second question is, "How do I establish treasures in heaven?"



Does this mean that I must scrap everything in this life, or lead some sort of monastic life without anything of this world's goods? No, God doesn't require that. Jesus taught us that we had to live in the world but that we should not be OF the world. Quite simply, this means that of necessity we must live a normal earthly life, but that life is not to be lived as though our earthly existence will go on forever here. So how do we lay up treasures in heaven? How do we send them on ahead, or make those "Pre-Arrangements?"

Time. There is nothing in life quite as valuable as time. We can spend time in worthwhile things or we can waste time endlessly. We can invest our time in the lives of other people and seek to point them to the Lord by giving of ourselves. How many of us when we are asked to give of our time within the church respond with, "I'm too busy, I don't have time?" What will we answer the Lord when He asks, "What did you do for Me with all the time I gave you on earth?"

Children. One of the most precious assets are the children God has given us. Now I know ~~xxx~~ there are some who can rightly say, "I don't have any children." But what are you doing for the children of others? You see, it is incumbent upon each of us to be concerned and caring about ALL children. Are we giving our time to help prepare our children for life in the world? Are we involved in Sunday School, and if not, why not? Are we seeking to point children toward fulltime service for the Lord? Or are we seeking to have our children follow the career we feel they should follow? There are many gifted children now who will simply drift into secular employment after college or high school to make a living when they have talents and gifts which God has given to them which could be used for God's kingdom. That doesn't mean that all children are required to go into Christian work. But ~~xxxxxx~~ taking a job in the steel mill, or the bank, or the business office should be as much a call for anyone as the call to ministry or missionary, or Christian education work is. Is the place of employment, or the school to which you are directing children the place where God would have them?

Money. If we are honest, we must admit that money plays an important role in all of our lives. We simply cannot exist without it. God is not asking us to make ourselves destitute. But let's be honest! How many of us are actually giving sacrificially for God's kingdom? How many of us are more concerned with taking care of our comforts instead of seeking to give as God has prospered us? How much of our money belongs to God? ALL OF IT! Therefore it belongs to Him, and we ought to be using it for Him and His kingdom as He directs. Do we ask God what He would have us do toward this end? Or do we decide for Him?

Talents. God has created each of us with certain talents and abilities which are uniquely ours. Each of us has certain gifts which should be used for the advancement of God's kingdom. Each congregation is a flock, like sheep. You are my flock which God has entrusted to my care and keeping. As I look at our sheep I see all kinds. Some of our sheep are very willing to give of their time and talents to serve the other sheep; some of our sheep are very selfish and take all they can from the church and give little if nothing back; some sheep don't even bother to show up for feeding time in Sunday, they get their feed from many other places, than from where the Head Shepherd wants them to get it; and then there are sheep who have never determined what their role should be within the fold. I truly love

my flock, You are my family, you are my firends. I love each of you dearly, but it grieves me that some of you will not get involved in the work of this flock. If all of us would use just one of the gifts God has given us, we could accomplish so much more for God's kingdom. What kind of "Pre-Arrangements" are we making for eternity?, we must each ask ourselves. ~~There are two things which will last forever. These two things are what Jesus taught His followers that were of importance to Him.~~

~~In this Sermon on the Mount Jesus told those people as recorded in the 5th chapter the 17th and 18th verses, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."~~

~~The first thing that will last forever is the Word of God. Are we investing our time wisely in seeking to learn what God's Word tells us for sending ahead our treasures?~~

~~Shortly before Jesus ascended into heaven He told them, "Upon this rock," (meaning Himself) I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."~~

~~What is the Church? It is people! People who are living for Him.~~

~~Two things only will last forever. God's Word, and people. Are we investing our lives in them?~~

(Illustration of Paderewski encouraging young boy at piano)

In our lives it is the Master who surrounds us and whispers in our ear, "Don't quit -- keep playing." And as we do He adds to our service and encourages us to keep on playing the piano of life. Note by note He adds to our lives and supplements our lives with His heavenly music. All the while we are playing, we are adding to the musical score which is our treasure that we are sending on ahead. And when the score is completed and He calls us home, we can hear His whispered, "Well done!"

Are you making "Pre-aRrangements" in heaven? Where is your treasure?



"Prayer is: a shield for the soul  
a sacrifice to God  
a scourge for Satan."

\*\*\*\*\*  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 13, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Nicole Merrison

\*\*\*\*\*  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 338 "We Sing the Greatness of Our  
God"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) We confess, Lord, that we have  
not loved you or our neighbors as we ought. We have  
often neglected opportunities for good: sometimes  
we have done actual harm. Our consciences accuse  
us over trifles, but let us stay blind to your more  
weightier demands. We know that a mere apology will  
not do. We resolve to turn from the sins we know,  
we ask you to show us the sins we do not recognize.  
We beg your pardon and ask your help, through your  
Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Kyrle

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Moment

Hymn No. 476 "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus!"

Scripture: John 7: 37-44

Sermon: "Side Out Application"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 617 "Onward Christian Soldiers"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*\*\*\*\*

\*Congregation Standing \*\*\*\*\*

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by

Mrs. Lois Wogan Stokes and family in memory of

Earl Wogan.

Kelly Mangel and Lori Weisenstein will greet our members

and guests at the door this morning.

Ushering today are Alta Kradel, Lois Stokes, Marilyn

Snyder and Dutch Bolam.

Attendance last Sunday was 134 with 13 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Lucille Tack.

Van driver for November 20th will be Dick Mangel.

Bill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the

hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Bill Winters in BMH

> TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS are to be turned in by  
November 20th. Please take a minute and fill them in  
and return them. If you do not have one, please stop  
in the office after church to get one. These are very  
important when setting up the committees for 1989.

> CHRISTMAS PROGRAM practice is set for 6:30 on Wednesdays.  
We would like you to make every effort to be there for  
these practices. This is the Sunday School children's  
program which will be held on December 11th.

> The Choir of this church will be participating in a  
Prayer & Praise Festival on Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M.  
at Community Alliance Church on Mercer Road. We hope  
that you will make plans to come and join us in support.  
This is open to the public.

We received a letter from Mrs. Bancroft. She is doing  
better and getting stronger. She would like to express  
her sincere thanks for all of the cards, prayers, and  
get well wishes. She looks forward to hearing from her  
friends here at St. Paul's, so keep them letters going.

POINSETTIAS for Christmas will be \$6.10 each this year.

If you would like to purchase one and have it in the  
church for December 18th and 25th, please let the office  
know. They will grace our chancel for the Cantata,  
Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday.

At the close of the service we sing an invitational hymn.  
This invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond  
to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives  
the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to  
meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will  
assist you if you desire.

Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. November 15, 1992

Prelude  
Greetings/Joys/Announcements/Prayer Requests

Ascription

Call to Worship:

PRAISE YE THE LORD! HAPPY IS HE THAT HATH THE GOD OF JACOB  
FOR HIS HELP, WHOSE HOPE IS IN THE LORD HIS GOD:  
WHICH MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT THEREIN  
IS: WHICH KEEPETH TRUTH FOREVER:  
WHICH EXECUTETH JUDGEMENTS FOR THE OPPRESSED: WHICH GIVETH  
FOOD TO THE HUNGRY.  
THE LORD LOOSETH THE PRISONERS: THE LORD OPENETH THE EYES  
OF THE BLIND: THE LORD RAISETH THEM THAT ARE BOWED DOWN:  
THE LORD LOVETH THE RIGHTEOUS: THE LORD PRESERVETH THE  
FATHERLESS AND WIDOW: BUT THE WAY OF THE WICKED HE  
TURNETH UPSIDE DOWN.  
THE LORD SHALL REIGN FOREVER. PRAISE YE THE LORD!

\*Hymn

Offering/Prayer

\*Doxology

\*Prayer

\*Hymn

Scripture: John 7:37-44

Sermon: "Inside Out Application" ST PAUL'S BUREAU 11/13/88

\*Hymn

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

FLSIE  
JEFF FAMILY

(Ilus littl boy & describ parts of body) JN 1:3/-77  
A SMAL BOY WAS ASKD 2WRIT WAT HE HAD LERND ABOUT TH/HUMN BODY  
IN HYGENE CLAS. SO HE SAT DWN & WROT:  
OUR BODY IS DIVIDED IN2 - 3PARTS: THE BRAINIUM, THE BORAX &  
THE ABOMINABL CAVITY.

TH/BRAINIUM CONTAINS TH/BRAIN, IF ANY.

TH/BORAX CONTAINS TH/LUNGS, LIGHTS, & HART.

TH/ABOMINABL CAVITY CONTAINS TH/BOWELS OF WH/TH/R 5,

A, E, I, O, & U. (FST OF TH/8-2RD = OCT 15-21)

Isa 12:3=TH/R W/JOY SHAL YE DRAW WATR OUT OF TH/WELS OF SALVATTI

THIRST=YERN4 THAT WH/WIL SATISFY TH/SOUL.

DRINK=RECEIV SPIRITULY THAT WH/REFRESHES, STRNGTHNS, & NOERISHES  
TH/SOUL

ISA 44:3=FOR I WIL POUR WATR UPON HIM THAT IS THIRSTY, & FLUDS  
UPON TH/DRY GRND: I WIL POUR MY SPIRIT UPON THY SEED, & MY  
BLESSING UPON THINE OFFSPRING.

ISA 55:1=HO, EVRONE WHO THIRSTS, CUM 2 TH/WATRS.

ISA 58:11= TH/LORD WIL CONTINULY GUID U & SATISFY UR DESIR IN  
SCORCHED PLACES, & GIV STRNGTH 2UR BONES: & U WILB LIK A WATRD  
GARDN, LIK A SPRING OF WATR WHOS WATRS DO NOT FAIL.

MT 5:17-18 - READ - WORD OF GOD

Declaratin that Js is Xp=UPON THIS ROK I WIL BILD MY CH, & THE  
GATES OF HEL SHAL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. MT 16:

Ch is - People SALVUP POLL & NO EVIDENCE

(Ilus Dwight L. Moody & quote in 1887 bout Xpians)

"WHY I MAY SAY W/TRUTH, THAT THER IS ONLY ABOUT ONE IN 10, WHO  
PROFES XPIANTY, WHO WIL TURN ARND & GLORFY G W/A LOUD VOICE.  
9 OUT OF 10 R STILBORN XPIANS. U NEVR HEAR OF THEM. IF U PRES  
THEM HARD W/TH QUESTIN WHETHER THEY R XPIANS, THEY MITE SAY,  
'L, I HOPE SO.' WE NEVR C IT IN THER ACTINS: WE NEVR C IT IN  
THER LIVES.

(ILUS OF POOR BOY, RTCH GIRL & GOLDN WINDOWS OF HER HOME)

(ILUS KEITH GREEN & SONG)

MY EYES ARE DRY,

MY FAITH IS OLD,

MY HEART IS HARD,

MY PRAYERS ARE COLD,

AND YOU KNOW HOW I OUGHT TO BE,

ALIVE TO YOU AND DEAD TO ME.

OH, WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR AN OLD HEART LIKE MINE?

SOFTEN IT UP WITH OIL AND WINE.

THE OIL IS YOU,

YOUR SPIRIT OF LOVE,

PLEASE WASH ME ANEW IN THE WINE OF YOUR LOVE.

LET TH/LIV WATRS FLO FR/W THH DAY BCUZ WE HAV  
BROT OUR TH/R 2 TH/L & HE HAS TAKEN CARE OF TH/R  
TIRRU SELF-



But bak wen Js was walk th/erth, men argu ovr who he was  
 Ther cums pt wher Js eithr acpt or rejectd  
 if He rejectd that peren has made his choic & his lif is his  
 responsibilty  
 but if peren has acpt Xp that choic requirs th/evidenc of ~~xxx~~  
 that acptanc

Th peren lif shud reflec wat we mite cal th=Inside Out Applica  
 t... means that fr witnin that persn shud cum 4th evidenc of  
 who it is we Bliev in & who it is we R wil 2serv as liv livs  
 We spok las wk of lay up treasurs in hvn, along what line we need  
 2B awar that as we seek 2liv our livs, ther R only 2things wh/wil  
 last 4ever  
 We n J  
 wen Js was teach=Serm on Mt in Mt 5:17-18 we read=READ  
 He say one thing wh/wil las 4ever is G's Word  
 shortly B4 MtandethJs spk 2discipls bout self & wen Petr sed  
 Js was th/Xp, Js wed=UPON THIS ROK I WIL BILD MY CH, & TH GATES  
 OF HELL SHAL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT  
 Wat is th/Ch made up of? PEOPLE  
 it is peo who R th/ 2nd thing that wil last 4evr  
 Th/Word of G, & People R th/2 eternl things & thez R wher we shud  
 R inves our livs  
 How R we mak th/Insid ~~xxxx~~ Out Applicatin? Is ther evidenc cum  
 fr/ our livs that ther is sumth w/in wh/being aply 2our livs?  
 Galup poll sevrl yrs ago identfy lrg maj citizns say they R  
 Xpians  
 but one wondrs if this tru wen C evidenc of Xpian Ch lak influ  
 in our society & we hear of disentin & fite ovr Bibl & Xpianity  
 (Ilus Dwight L. Moody & quote in 1888 bout Xpians)  
 Sadly, 1 hundred yrs latr th/same cadB sed bout Ch scene 2day  
 wat do othr peo C wen they lk at us?  
 (Jn's poor litl boy & mansin, rich girl & windows of gold)  
 Uh... / th/lite of th/sun both houses wer th/same  
 Undr th/lite of G's Son Js, wat is shin out of our harts?  
 th/cal of th/Sav is stil snd 4th this very day-IF ANY MAN  
 THIRST LET HIM CUM UNTO ME AND DRINK. HE THAT BLIEVETH ON ME  
 AS TH/SCRIPTUR HATH SED, OUT OF HIS BELLY SHAL FLO RIVRS OF  
 LIVING WATER \* vss 37-38  
 Js shudB pauring out of us, but perhaps we need 2-1st pour our-  
 selvs out 2 Him  
 (Ilus Keith Green & a song he sings)  
 Let th/living watrs flo fr/us this day Bcuz we hav brot our  
 thirst 2 th/L & He has takn care of our thirst thru Nimsel

"Inside Out Application"  
 Scripture: John 7:37-44  
 (Ilus of litl boy & descrip of humn body)  
 Th/boy of cors was confusd bout few things  
 it was at th/clos of anul feast of Tabs in 3rd yr of Js minstry  
 that He made proclam wh/struk hope/joy in2 harts of folowrs  
 (his sam mesag caus confus 2teign among othrs who no Bliev  
 this was th/ptomis One fr/G  
 this Feast of Tabs was 3rd & las feast 2B held ea yr  
 it also cal=Feast of Ingathering Bcuz held tween 15 & 21 of Oct  
 & signfy harv of grain/grapes/fruts & olivs  
 th/feast last 4 -7days & on 7th day booths dismantld & a Sab  
 observ was held on 8th day  
 ea of 7days of feast th/worships cam 2 temp w/branches palm/willo  
 they form procesin 2 pool of Siloam S of Jeru & ther at pool  
 a pr tuk goldn pitchr & fil w/watr  
 w/joy/sing return 2 temp & pr pour watr on altr whil peo march  
 rnd altr wav branch & sing - ISA 12:3  
 Jn tel us=vs 37-Js exten invit 2thoz who seek salv 2cum 2Him  
 Thirst in Grk=mean sp thirst, a yern 4 that wh/wil satisfy soul  
 Drink in Grk=mean receiv sp that wh/refreshes, strngthns, & nour-  
 ishes th/soul  
 So pur 2words 2gethr, thirst/drink=Js say thoz who R lk 4spirtul  
 things can satisfy thirsty crav of soul can find in Him  
 this quite statemen & His hearrs wer made up of peo who wer lk  
 4/th/One G was go 2send 2reliev ther hungr & thirst 4things of  
 God  
 vs 38=it uncert wat Scrip Js refer 2, but may hav bin fr/prophs  
 of Isa that he recal=Isa 44:3, Isa 55:1, Isa 58:11  
 In ea thez G prom 2tak care th/spir thirst that seekrs hav  
 Th/Prom One of G was 2bring redem/releas 4all ~~xxx~~ any & all who  
 wu' Bliev in Him  
 h... was Js ask thez peo 2Bliev in Him as Scrips pt Him out &  
 fr/ther livs, fr/ther very inrmos B wud cum 4th pruf of this  
 fr/anly cum 2 Xp & acpt Him as L & Sav, Js is say this choic  
 wudB seen & noticed  
 That evidenc wud cum fr/within, it wudB fr/th/insid out  
 At this pt Jn ad slite editorial coment=vs 39  
 Jn was spk bout evidenc wh/wudB seen in Blievrs lif w/cum of  
 H Sp in that persns lif  
 But Jn was also witnes 2th/powr of th/H Sp at Pentecost & he  
 knu wat Js was talk bout wen He sed this  
 So Jn writ this long afr Js sed, can add this ed coment bout  
 wat th/indwel of H Sp cud do in persns lif  
 vss 40-44=this is result of teach of Js on certin peo  
 this pasag thus closes on tragic note  
 a grt sp exper had takn plac, G had reveal self thru Js & cert  
 peo wantd 2start argu who He realy was  
 this is sad; we may Bliev we liv in th/only age that has evr  
 exper widespred sp/unblief

"Inside Out Appliaation"

Scripture: J hn 7:37-44

(Illustration of little boy and his description of the human body)

A small boy was asked to write what he had learned ~~ix~~ about the human body in hygiene class. So he sat down and wrote:

Our body is divided into three parts - the brainium, the borax, and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, if any. The borax contains the lungs, lights, and heart. The abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five, - A, E, I, O, and U.

The boy of course was confused about a few things. It was at the close of the annual Feast of Tabernacles in the third year of Jesus' ministry that He made a proclamation which struck hope and joy into the hearts of ~~xxxxxxx~~ those who were followers of Him, and that same message caused confusion to reign among others who did not believe that this was the promised One of God.

This Feast of Tabernacles was the third ~~xf~~ and last feast to be held each year. It was also called "The Feast of the Ingathering," because it was held between the 15th and the 21st of October and signified the harvest of grain, and grapes, and ~~xxxxx~~ fruits and olives.

The Feast lasted for 7 days and on the 7th day the booths or tabernacles were dismantled and a Sabbath observance was held. On each of the seven days of the feast the worshipers came to the temple with branches of palm, or willow. They formed a procession to the Pool of Siloam south of the temple in Jerusalem. There at the pool, ~~xxx~~ a priest took a golden pitcher and filled it with water. So with joy and singing the procession returned to the temple and the priest poured the water on the altar while the people marched around the altar waving their branches and singing. A part of what they sung was the 3rd verse of Isaiah which reads, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." ~~Thxxxxxxxxxxxxthe last day~~ Thus we read, "In the last day, that great day of the feast." It was the 8th day, the water was poured from the golden pitcher on the altar, and the people were singing, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation," and John tells us, "Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink."

Jesus extends the invitation to those who seek salvation to come to Him. The word ~~xxxxx~~ "Thirst" in Greek ~~ix~~ has the meaning of a spiritual thirst, a yearning for that which will satisfy the soul. The word "Drink" in Greek means "receiving ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ spiritually that which refreshes, strengthens, and nourishes the soul." So putting the two words together, "Thirst," and "drink," Jesus is saying that those who are looking for the spiritual things that can satisfy the thirsty craving of the soul can be found in Him. This is quite a statement and His hearers were made ~~xf~~ up of people who were looking for the One God was going to send them to relieve their hungering and thirsting for the things of God.

Jesus then goes on to say, "He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." verse 38.

It is uncertain to which Scripture Jesus is referring, but it may have been from the prophesies of Isaiih that He was recalling. In Isaiah 44:3 we read, "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thine offspring."



In Isaiah 55:1, God says, "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters." And in Isaiah 58:11, God says, "And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."

In each of these God is promising to take care of the spiritual thirst that seekers of Him have. The promised One of God ~~was~~ was promised in Scripture to bring redemption and release for any and all who would believe in Him. Here was Jesus asking these people to believe in Him as the Scriptures pointed Him out and from their lives, ~~was~~ from their very innermost beings would come forth <sup>PROOF OF THIS</sup> A From anyone coming to Christ and accepting Him as Lord and Savior, Jesus is saying this choice would be seen and noticed. That evidence would come from within, it would be from the "Inside Out."

It is at this point that the Apostle John adds a slight editorial comment, (read verse 39). John was ~~saying~~ speaking about the evidence which would be seen in the believers life with the coming of the Holy Spirit in that person's life. But John also was witness to the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and he knew what Jesus was talking about. He also knew what the indwelling of the Holy Spirit could do in a person's life, so he saw fit to share his editorial comment for all future believers.

It is then that John shares with us the results of the teaching here of Jesus on certain people, (read verses 40 through 44). This passage closes on a tragic note. A great spiritual experience had taken place, God had revealed Himself through Jesus, and certain people wanted to start arguing about who He really was. This is sad. We may believe that we live in the only age ~~that has ever experienced spiritual unbelief~~ that has ever experienced spiritual unbelief. But back when Jesus Himself was walking the earth, men were arguing over who He was. There comes a point where Jesus is either accepted or rejected. If He is rejected then that person has made his choice and his life is his responsibility. But if the person has accepted Christ, then that choice requires the evidence of that acceptance. That person's life should reflect ~~the~~ what we might call the, "Inside Out Application." That means that from within the person should come forth evidence of who it is we believe in, and who it is we are willing to serve as we live our lives.

We spoke last week of laying up treasure in heaven and along that line we need to be aware that as we seek to live our lives, there are only two things which will last forever.

When Jesus was teaching what we call "The Sermon On The Mount," in the 5th chapter of Matthew in verses 17 & 18 Jesus said, (Read these). He is saying that one thing that will last forever is God's Word.

Shortly before His <sup>DEATH</sup> ~~ascension~~, Jesus was speaking to His disciples about Himself and when Peter said that "He," Jesus, was the Christ, Jesus said, "Upon this rock ~~will~~ I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

What is the Church made up of? People! It is people ~~that~~ who are the second thing that will last forever.

The Word of God, and People are the two eternal things and these are where we should be investing our lives. How are we making the "Inside Out Application?" Is there evidence coming from our lives that there is something within that is being applied to our lives?

A Gallup poll of just a few years ago tells us that a large majority of the citizens of our nation claim to be Christians but one wonders if this is true when we see the evidence of the Christian Church lacking influence in our society. It was Dwight L. Moody who said this about Christians in 1887:

"Why I may say with truth, that there is only about one in ten, who profess Christianity, who will turn around and glorify God with a loud voice. Nine out of ten are still-born Christians. You never hear of them. If you press them hard with the question whether they are Christians, they might say, 'Well, I hope so.' We never see it in their actions; we never see it in their lives."

Sadly, one-hundred years later, the same thing can be said about the Church-scene today.

What do other people see when they look at us?

(Illustration of poor little boy; mansion of rich girl & she was poor like him)

Under the light of the sun, both of the houses were the same. Under the light of God's Son, Jesus, what is shining out of our lives?

The call of our Savior is still sounding forth this very day. - "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture ~~saxix~~ hath said, out of belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Jesus should be pouring out of us, but perhaps we need to first pour ourselves out to Him.

Keith Green a Christian singer sings a song that states:

"My eyes are dry,  
My faith is old,  
My heart is hard,  
My prayers are cold,  
And you know how I ought to be,  
Alive to You and dead to me.

Oh, what can be done for an old heart like mine?  
Soften it up with oil and wine.  
The oil is you,  
Your spirit of love,  
Please wash me anew in the wine of your love.

Let the living waters flow from us this day because we have brought our thirst to the Lord and He has taken care of our thirst through Himself.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 20, 1988

Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and Jimmy Shearer

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

\*Processional Hymn No. 687 "God of Our Fathers"

\*Ascription

\*Call to Worship:

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof:  
the world and they that dwell therein.

People: Offer unto God thanksgiving; and put thy  
vows unto the most High.

Leader: Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with  
the first fruits of all thine increase.

\*Invocation: (In Unison) O Lord our God, You are always  
more ready to bestow Your good gifts upon us than we  
are to seek them, and are willing to give more than we  
desire or deserve: help us to seek that we may truly  
find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock  
that the door of Your mercy may be opened to us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Praise: Leader - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Moment

Thankoffering Invitation:

B+8 - Leader: You shall remember the Lord your God for it  
is He that gives you power to get wealth. And  
you shall not appear before the Lord empty.

People: Every man shall give as he is able, according  
to the blessing of the Lord your God, which  
He has given you.

ME - Pastor: For if there be a willing mind, it is acceptable  
according to that which a man has, and not  
according to that which he has not.

People: Every man as he purposes in his heart, so let  
him give, not grudgingly or of necessity, for  
God loves a cheerful giver.

B+8 - Leader: Upon the first day of the week, let every one  
of you lay by him in store as God as prospered  
you. "Bring ye all the tithes into the store-  
house, that there may be meat in Mine house  
and prove Me herewith, saith the Lord of hosts.  
If I will not open the windows of heaven and  
pour out a blessing that there shall not be  
room enough to receive it."

ME  
Offering (all offerings, envelopes, loose change, canned  
goods, etc., bring forward at this time  
and place in the offering plates and containers  
provided. The Ushers will assist you at the rail.)

\*Thankoffering Dedication and Prayer: (In Unison) Most  
Gracious God, by whose appointment the seasons come and  
go, and who made the fruits of the earth to minister to  
the needs of men, we offer You our thanksgivings that You  
have brought us through the circuit of another year, and  
that according to Your promise, seedtime and harvest have  
not failed. We thank You that You have prospered the  
farmer in his toil, and have crowned the year with Your  
goodness. We praise You for the plentiful harvests to feed  
the hungry and minister to our comfort. At the thought of  
Your bounty, we offer to You our sacrifices of thanks-  
giving, and pray that You will feed our souls with the  
Bread of Life. Thanks be to You, O Lord, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Come Before The Lord With Praise"

ME  
Scripture: Genesis 8: 15-22

Sermon: "Ask, Receive, And Then What?"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 392 "Come Ye Thankful People, Come"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs.  
Isabel Eichhorn in memory of her husband George.

Mrs. LuAnn Janicki will greet our members and guests this  
morning at the door.

Ushering will be done today by members of the Youth Group.  
Nursery will be provided today by Michelle Henry.

Van driver for November 27th will be Bill Snyder.

Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

Hospitalized:

Attendance last Sunday was 121 with 8 visitors.

We welcome all who worship in thanksgiving with us. May these moments you spend in sincere thanks, thoughtful worship and earnest prayer, give you a renewed and grateful heart.

THE BUTLER FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES  
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 28, 1991

North Street Christian Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001

Gracious God: by your providence we live and work and join in families; and from your hand receive those things we need, gift on gift, all free. We thank you for the harvest of goodness you supply: for food and shelter, for words and gestures, for all our human friendships. Above all, we praise you for your Son, who came to show mercy and who names us His own brothers. Glory to you for the great kindness to all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE Karen Krenitsky, Organist

"Come Ye Thankful People Come" North Street Christian  
Handbell Choir

WELCOME Rev. Robert Huber  
Pastor, North Street  
Christian Church

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMNS: "We Gather Together" No. 561  
"I Just Came to Praise the Lord" No. 113

PSALM No. 65  
OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 8: 15-22  
Robert Olsavicky  
Community Alliance

ANTHEM "O Give Thanks To The Lord"  
North Street Christian Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24  
Robert Olsavicky  
Community Alliance

Sermon "After The Blessings - Then What?"  
Rev. Ralph Link

HYMN: "For The Beauty of the Earth" No. 560

OFFERTORY STATEMENT Rev. Robert Huber

OFFERTORY  
OFFERTORY PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC Paula Baptiste

Closing Hymn: "In Thanksgiving Let Us Praise Him"  
No. 557

Benediction Rev. Robert Huber

\*\*\*\*\*

FIRST THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION  
By George Washington, 1789

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection, aid and favors....

Now, THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, and for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

The Spiritual Life Commission of the Butler Fellowship of Churches wishes to thank all the participants of this program. We especially thank those who made the service possible, the Rev. Robert Huber, Pastor, Karen Krenitsky, organist, and the Congregation of the North Street Christian Church for offering their talent and facilities to make this service possible.



Community Bible Church - Sagamore, KS. 11/24/91

Prelude

Greetings/Announcements/Prayer Requests

Today, Annual meeting w/Rev. Leroy Glover of  
Ev. Free Church  
Discuss options/possibilities

Ascription

Call to Worship: #70 - A Manual of Worship-Skogl  
"I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNOT ME, 'LET US  
GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!'"

THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HATH MADE,

\*Hymn LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

Offering/Prayer

\*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Scripture: Genesis 8:15-22 - 11/20/88 - RUTEN

Sermon: "After the Blessing - Then What?"

\*Hymn

\*Benediction

ROGER

Penney/Don Schwab farmrs-SW Kansas  
lrges famr equip auction in 3states  
pray=JUS A TRUK L, JUS A TRUK TO HAUL OUR GRAIN

GEN. 8:15-22

Steer by ARM-STRONG

N" TRUK,UPSET-BAK 2old one & ask=WAT AM I GO 2DO W/THIS OLD  
PIEC OF JUNK, LORD?

Had ask, Receive, But now wat? AFTER BLESS - THEN WAT?

Sevrl principles involv:

FIRST - Providence of G

vs 15-19 -

vs 20-Noah worsh G

vs 21B-Offr acptbl 2 God & He declar this

vs 22-This G's prom = SIMPLY - HE WIL PROVID

(Ilus SS teachr & ask, Why do U Bliev in God?)

boy ansr-I DONT KNO,UNLES ITS SMTH THAT RUNS IN TH/FAMILY

G wil provid like sed vs 22, so why ask,why is it necessary?

We taut need 2ask 4intangibl

Scriptel is as ask/wil receiv

aftr Ask,Receiv,Then Wat?

(Ilus Penney=Wat ami go 2DO W/THIS OLD PIEC OF JUNK,LORD?

U CAN GIV THANKS TRUK SED

THANKS 4THIS CANTANKERUS,TEMPERMENTAL HUNK OF METAL??? NEVER!

Remem prayr=JUS A TRUK L, JUS A TRUK TO HAUL OUR GRAIN

She thank G 4 th/truk & remem truk servd purpos

P sez 1 Thes 5:18 (IN EVRYTH GIV THANKS 4 THIS IS TH/WIL  
OF G IN XP IS CONCERNING U.

(1 ) Matthew Henry & thankful for being robbed)

Bibl comentator Matthew Henry made entry in diary aftr being  
robbed:

LET ME B THANKFUL-FIRST,BCUZ I WAS NEVR ROBBED B4;

SECOND, BCUZ ALTHO THEY TUK MY WALET THEY DID NOT TAK MY LIF

THIRD, BCUZ ALTHO THEY TUK MY ALL,IT WAS NOT MUCH;

& FOURTH, BCUZ IT WAS I WHO WAS ROBBED,NOT I WHO ROBBED.

Thanksgiv dinnr & Don red=Vs 22 & dottr add=& NEITHR WIL MOMS TRU

Wat U hav exasperates U - IRRITATES U?

5Kernels & use at dinnr this year

Ask, Receiv, & Then Wat? = Giv thanks BcuZ G sed=vs 22

AFTER TH/BLESSINGS - THEN WAT?

"Ask, Receive, And Then What?"  
 Scripture: Genesis 8:15-22  
 (Penney & Don Schwab-farmers SW Kansas; others harv & cost keep eat  
 profit; get combin/grain cart, but need truck; auction lrges 3state  
 drove 250mi; Penney pray-JUS A TRUK L, JUS A TRUK 2HAUL OUR GRAIN:  
 Jus simpl truk, no fancy uphol, radio 2listn Dal Cowboys  
 wer 5 trucks; all sold Byon ther abilty 2aford; last one was  
 70 plain white cab, rip uphol, paint flak off & lk lik real losr  
 Auctioneer=U CAN HAUL A LOT OF GRAIN IN THIS  
 man ansr=LKS LIK IT HAS HAUL MOR THAN ITS SHARE  
 nothr sed=ITS A HARVESTRS REJEC, THATS FOR SURE  
 Bid start & only Don & nothr man lef; othr man calculat, shak hed  
 & Schwabs had ther truk  
 evn had radio, ther prays wer ansred  
 drov hom, fww day latr Penney was 2driv truk 2field  
 Truk stall, got start, went 2bakup, put in revers & go 4ward, wen  
 finly get 2field, Don expl sumone regear, & gears wrong place  
 Sumtimes brakes work wel, others push 2floor 2stop  
 childrn teas Mom ~~xxxxxxx~~ STEERING BY ARM-STRONG  
 truk tempermentl, but got job dun & Penney tolerat Bcuz all had  
 1980 Dad bot nu truk; Penney driv grain 2town, set radio, ofside  
 road, upset & wreck truk  
 bak to old truk & all whil ask, "WAT AM I GOING 2DO W/THIS OLD  
~~TRUKXXXXXX~~ PIEC OF JUNK, LORD?"  
 She had Ask, Receiv, But Now Wat?  
 Ther sevr1 princpls involv in this situatin & all othrs lik it  
 FIRST: Ther is G's providenc  
 Th/worl dur days Noah Bcam very corrup, Noah & famly wer only  
 ones who ritus in G's site  
 We all kno story how G destroy inhabs of erth w/flud  
 folo flud, watrs reced & once agin man cud set fut dry grnd  
 this wher Scrip this morn Bgin-vss 15-19  
 vs 16-out of thankfulness/lav Noah worsH Him  
 vs 21B=offr acptbl 2 G & G declar this  
 vs 22=this G's prom  
 it thru Noah G provid salv 4humanty  
 All humn race destroy but Noah/fam, & fr/them all futur humanty  
 cam 4th  
 At this tim, G made prom 2all mank & that prom was=Vs 22-READ  
 this not conditinal prom if man do such & such G wud do this  
 it simply G wud do this regardles wat man mite do  
 His provisn was/is 2B givn 2evrone whthr Bliev in Him or not  
 He simply states He wil provid & wil do regardles of seasn, or  
 th/weathr, & He wil do so day aftr day, yr aftr yr  
 (Ilus SS teacher & ask clas say Why do U Bliev in G?)  
 indirecly, it is sumth that runs in famly, all famlys can trace  
 ther Bgins bak 2 G's orig creatin & we R actuly all of one famly  
 & G's prom as givn Scrip is 2all mank, & not 2jus a few  
 But as lk at G's prom, or provisn mus ask=If G wil provid, wher  
 is necesity 2ask Him 4anyth?

ansr lys in th/fav, G prom suply w/necesstys of lif, & we R taut  
 thru His Word we need 2ask Him 4thoz intangibls wh/need 4livs  
 G givs us means 2 liv, eat, surviv, but mus lean on Him 4 directin  
 4help, & 4th/knowledg of wat He wils 4us as we liv day by day  
 Scrip also inform us as we ask, so we wil receiv, & if we hav any  
 kirt of relatsip w/G we can ea atest that aftr we hav askd, we  
 ha. /receivd, but aftr this=Then Wat?  
 This exaclly sam quest Penney Schwab ask  
 Tim aftr tim sumth went wrong w/truk & aftr wreck nu one had 2rel;  
 on old one  
 it then she ask quest=WAT AM I GO 2DO W/THIS OLD PIEC JUNK L?  
 She sed she nu truks cant talk, but sed had strnges feel this one  
 ansred & sed=U CAN GIV THANKS  
 & agin she ask G quest=GIV THANKS 4THIS CANTANKRUS, TEMPRMENTL  
 HUNK OF METAL? & her ansrs was=NEVER!  
 But then her words of her prayr cam bak 2her=JUS A TRUK L, A TRUK  
 TO HAUL OUR GRAIN  
 She had askd, she had receivd, but she had nevr sed a word of thank  
 But she had also spent yrs complain bout th/gift  
 He ques was=CUD IT B THAT HER ATTITUD WAS TH/TRUKS MAIN PROB?  
 As she pondred this she grumbld, THANK U LORD, FOR THIS TRUK  
 then she thot of th/probs had w/truk & tho they wer many, braks  
 nevr faild on th/hiway, nevr had any acidents, no one was evr hurt  
 it had hauled load aftr load, faithfulty day aftr day  
 From this do we conclud that evn in bad times do we thank G 4thoz  
 events?  
 P sez in 1 Thes 5:18  
 (Ilus of Matthew Henry, B robdd & giv thanks)  
 2giv thanks wen circums R not favrbl 4thanks is wat G wants us 2  
 C as our duty  
 it always eazy say thank U Lord wen things R at ther best & we  
 R ) th/mntn peak, but taks real faith 2giv thanks wen things R  
 at ther worst  
 So it was, Schwabs complet harv in Nov & that yr as sat dwn 2ther  
 thanksgiv dinnr, Don read=Vs 22-Read  
 & as famly sed Amen 2gethr, ther litl dotttr sed=& neithr will  
 Mom's truk  
 Wat do U ~~am~~ hav in Ur lif that exasprates U? Is ther anyth lik  
 this ol truk in Ur lif? Is ther persn who drives U up th/wal at ju  
 jus mentin his/her name?  
 How hav U handld it? Hav U evr givn thanks 4that thing, or that  
 persn?  
 This morn U wer givn env w/5kernels, & it bin expl bout signif  
 ther mor in NARTH if U want tak, & I suges custom wh/dun by sum  
 famlys of giv ea famly membr a kernel-then ea membr state one  
 thing thankful for  
 NO TRIVIA LIK=thankful for this meal, my famly, etc-state why  
 Ask, Receiv, & Then Wat? It is 2giv thanks Bcuz G has sed=VS 22  
 Wat do U hav that wil not ceas lik Penney Schwab's old truk?  
 Watevr it is, giv thanks for it



11/20/88

Scripture: Genesis 8:15-22

Penney and Don Schwab own a farm in southwestern Kansas. Each year they hired other men to harvest their grain. But each year they were paying out more for that harvesting and realizing less for themselves. So they finally scraped enough money together to buy an old combine and a rickety grain <sup>car</sup> but they desperately needed a truck. They shopped around and all of the trucks available simply cost too much and a truck was out of the question. But just two weeks before the fall harvest they read a notice of an auction to be held and it was billed as, "THE LARGEST CONSIGNMENT AUCTION OF HARVEST EQUIPMENT IN THREE STATES." Although it was 250 miles to Plainview, Texas, they decided to make the trip. While they were driving to the auction, Penney prayed. They ~~new~~ knew the specifics of what they needed and she prayed, "Just a truck, Lord. Just a truck to haul our grain." She felt her prayer was simple enough. She wasn't asking for a pretty truck with ~~upholstered~~ nice upholstery, or a radio so she could listen to the Dallas Cowboy football games while she drove. It was simply, "Just a truck, to haul our grain." They walked down the rows of equipment to be sold and there were five trucks of the kind they needed. As the auction progressed Penney's spirits sank because a lot of the equipment was being sold for very high prices. But when the auctioneer complained about not being able to give a certain piece of equipment away because of low bidding her spirits revived. Finally, around two o'clock the trucks were to be sold. ~~There were five trucks~~ On the first two trucks the bidding started at \$2000 over what Don and Penney could afford. Don was able to bid on the next two, but soon the bidding was beyond their price range. Now only one truck was left. It was a 1973 model with a plain white cab, with a rusting beat up body on it. Inside, yellow foam rubber poked through the rips in the seat covers, and different colors of paint flaked off different parts of it and it ~~and~~ it looked like a real loser. The auctioneer said, "You can haul a lot of grain in this," to which some man muttered, "It looks like it has hauled more than its share." Another man said, "It's a harvesters reject, that's for sure." But the bidding started and soon only Don and another man were left. Twice the bid was raised and the other man checked his calculator, and then shook his head, and the truck was Don and Penney's. The Schwab's had their truck, and it even had a radio, their prayers had been answered. They drove home and a few days afterward Don told Penney to bring the truck to the field later in the morning so they could load it. She got into the truck, put it in low gear and then into second and it died. She got it started again and ~~was driving~~ somehow was able to get it moving forward. But when she needed to put it in reverse, the truck moved forward. Finally, when she got to the field Don told her that someone had worked on the transmission and the gears were not where they should have been, so they had to guess until they hit the right ones. And the radio only picked up one country and western station, not the one which broadcast the football games. The brakes worked well most of the time, but there were times when pushing them to the floor barely slowed the truck. Their children teased their mother about driving the truck with "steering by arm-strong." The truck was tempermental, but it got the job done, but Penney said she just tolerated it because it was all they had. Everything seemed to go wrong with it at one time or another and yet it still kept running. In 1980 Don's dad bought them a new truck and they were thrilled. Penney was hauling a load of grain to the mill and while she was trying to tune in the radio she was too close to the edge of the road and in trying to correct the steering the load shifted and the truck upset. She wasn't hurt, but the truck was wrecked. So it was back to the old truck again. And all the while Penney kept asking, "What am I going to do with this old piece of junk, Lord?"

She had asked, and had received, "But now what?" There are several principles involved in this situation and all others like it.

First, there is God's providence. The world during the days of Noah became very corrupt. Noah and his family of all the people on the earth, were the only ones who were righteous in God's sight. We all know the story of how God destroyed ~~the world~~ all the inhabitants of the earth with the flood. Following the flood the waters receded and once again man could set foot on dry ground. This is where our Scripture for this morning begins, and we read,



(read verses 15 through 19)

And Noah, out of love and thankfulness to God, worshiped Him as we read, (read verse 20).

This offering, <sup>was</sup> acceptable to God and God makes the declaration, (read verse 21B).

But more than that there is the promise, (read verse 22). It was through Noah that God provided salvation for humanity. All of the human race was destroyed except Noah and his family and from them all of humanity came forth. At this time God made a promise to all of mankind. That promise was, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

This was not a conditional promise that if man would do such and such, God would do this.

It was simply that God would do this regardless of what man might do. His provision was and is to be given to everyone whether they believe in Him or not. He simply states that He will provide. And He will do this day after day, year after year, regardless of the season, or the weather. Simply put, "HE WILL PROVIDE."

(Illustration of Sunday School teacher asking, "Why do you believe in God?")

A Sunday School teacher asked her class to state ~~why~~ "Why you believe in God?" She told some of the answers she received, but the one she liked the best came from a little boy who said, "I don't know, unless it's something that runs in the family."

Indirectly, it is something that runs in the family. All families can trace their beginnings back to God's original creation and we are actually all of one family. And God's promise as given in our Scripture is to all mankind and not just a few.

But as we look at God's promise of provision, we must then ask, "If God will provide, where is the necessity to ask Him for anything?" The answer lies in the fact that God has promised to supply us with the necessities of life and we are taught through His Word that we need to ask Him for those intangibles which we need for our lives. God gives us the means to live, to eat, to survive, but we must lean on Him for direction, for help, and for the knowledge of what He wills for us as we live day by day. Scripture also informs us that as we ask, so we shall receive. And if we have had any kind of relationship with God, we can each attest that after we have asked, we have received, but after this, "Then What?"

This is exactly the same question that Penney Schwab asked.

Time after time things went wrong with their old beatup truck. And after she had wrecked the new truck, she had to go back to the old one. It was then that she asked the question of God "What am I going to do with this old piece of junk, Lord?"

She said, she knew that trucks can't talk, but she had the strangest feeling that that one answered and said, "You can give thanks."

And again she asked God a question, "Give thanks for this cantankerous tempermental hunk of metal?" And her answer was, "Never!"

Then her words of prayer came back to her, "Just a truck Lord, A truck to haul our grain."

She had asked, and she had received, but she had never said a word of thanks. But she had also spent years complaining about the gift. Her question was, "Could it be that her attitude was the truck's main problem?"

As she pondered this, she grumbled, "Thank You Lord, for this truck."

Then she thought of the problems they had with the truck and she reasoned that though things went wrong with it, the truck's brakes never failed on the highway, it got them to and from the grain mills, and it hauled load after load of grain faithfully day after day.

From this, do we conclude that even in bad times do we thank the Lord for those events?

The Apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the people in the church at Thessalonica, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,"  
1 Thessalonians 5:18.



(Illustration of Matthew Henry being robbed and giving thanks)

To give thanks when circumstances are not favorable for thanks is what God wants us to see as our duty. It's always easy to say thank you Lord when things are at their best and we are on that mountain peak. But it takes real faith to give thanks when things are at their worst.

So it was that the Schwab's completed their harvest in November and that year as they sat down to their Thanksgiving dinner, Don Schwab read, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." And as the family said Amen together their little daughter said, "And neither will Mom's truck."

What do you have in your life that exasperates you? Is there anything like this old truck in your life? Is there a person who drives you up the wall with just the thought of that person, or the very mention of his or her name? How have you handled it? Have you ever given thanks for that thing, or that person?

This morning, you were given a little envelope which by now you have discovered contained five grains of corn. You have heard ~~the~~ and read the significance of them. (There are more in the basket on the table in the narthex which I would suggest you take as needed.) I say that because there is something I think we should each do. I would request that when we sit down to our Thanksgiving Dinner whenever and wherever that may be, we distribute at least one kernel to each person at the table. Then before the prayer is given, each person, no matter how young or how old around that table, should be asked to say thanks for just one thing. They should be encouraged to say thanks for things that are not superficial, such as, "This food." They should be encouraged to be specific like, a specific answer to a prayer that year; for a specific act of love by someone; for a specific provision of God, etc. "Ask, Receive, And Then What?" It is to give thanks, because God has said, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." What do you have that will not cease like Penney Schwab's old truck? Whatever it is, give thanks for it.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 27, 1988

Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Meron Hewis

+ + + + +

HANGING OF THE GREENS 11:00 A.M.

Prelude "A Christmas Lullaby"

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Joys

\*Processional Hymn No. 190 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

\*Ascription

\*Prayer (In Unison) O God, You prepared the hearts and  
minds of men of old for the coming of Your Son, and  
Your Spirit ever works to illumine our darkened lives  
with the light of His Gospel; prepare now, our hearts  
and minds, we beseech You, that Christ may dwell within  
us, and ever reign in our thoughts and affections, as  
the King of Love, and the very Prince of Peace. This  
we ask in His name. Amen.

The Meaning of Advent

The Banner of the Angel and Annunciation

Presentation of the Advent Wreath

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn Response No. 174

The Christmas Symbols:

STAR - Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10

Hymn Response No. 201 - first verse

STAR AND MANGER BANNER

Hymn Response No. 201 - second verse

HOLLY WREATH

Response "The Holly and the Ivy" (everyone sing)

Offering

Offertory "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

\*Doxology - page 382

Children's Moment

The Christmas Symbols continued:

CHRISMON TREE

GREENS AND MISTLETOE

Hymn Response No. 169

CANDLES

Hymn Response No. 195

BELLS

POSTLUDE

Hymn No. 168 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

MANGER SCENE

THE ANGEL

THE HOLY FAMILY

Hymn Response No. 180

The Promise

\*Invitational Hymn No. 170 "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall Come"

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

"THE HOLLY AND THE IVY"

The Holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears  
the crown.

The Holly bears a blossom, as white as lily flow'r,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To be our sweet Savior.

The Holly bears a berry, as red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good.

Refrain: The rising of the sun, and the running of the  
deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.

-----  
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in memory of Alan Miller.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Campbell will greet our friends and  
members at the door this morning.

Ushering today is Don Kingsley, George Pflugh, Dick  
Dally and Dick Mangel.

Attendance last Sunday was 117 with 9 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Beth Tait.

Van Driver for December 4th will be Marty Henry.

Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

Hospitalized:

CANTATA CHOIR practice for Women Only will be held on  
Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS were to be turned in by  
today. If you have not, please see that I get them  
by next Sunday. Thank you.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives you the opportunity to  
accept Christ, to pray, to meditate or to seek  
counseling. The Pastor will assist if you desire.



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
OF SAGAMORE

November 29, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK      WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

*ADVENT WREATH*

\*\*HYMN-----#256

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

\*\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----#345

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-25

SERMON: "Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

\*\*INVITATIONAL HYMN-----# 92

\*\*BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

\*\* Please . 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF THE WEEK .....

\* December 24, 1998: 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service.

\* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

November 29-----Helen McCausland  
November 30-----Heather Abbey  
December 3-----Joanne Fairman  
December 4-----Cory Fairman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

*BARB*  
*NORMA*  
*TERRY*  
*DON - EYE*  
*AUSTIN*

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 4, 1988

Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Dave Brinker

\*\*\*\*\*  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 184 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) O God, it is easier for us to call you Lord, than it is to do what your Lordship requires. We enlist in your causes but find ourselves losing interest. We promise ourselves courage but find ourselves giving in to fear. We want to be sensitive but find it easy to be hard. We fail to see and take advantage of the great opportunities surrounding us. Forgive us, our Father. Take our limitations and turn them into possibilities for service. Grant us this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God  
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Children's Moment

Hymn No. 192 "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You  
People - And with Thy Spirit  
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (organ and sax)

\*Doxology

Anthem: "What a Friend"

Scripture: Luke 1: 5-25

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 197 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*\*\*\*\* \*Congregation Standing \*\*\*\*\*

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Riemer in memory of Mr. Gale Leighton and Mr. & Mrs. William Riemer.

Mrs. Becky Shearer and boys will greet our members and friends at the door this morning.

Serving as Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow,

Frank Crawford, and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 140 with 19 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Millie Wachsmuth.

Van Driver for December 11th will be Dick Dally.

Rick Vinroe and Lloyd Link will be visiting the hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Lois Stokes in BMH. - *Rob*

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

> Dec. 5th - Committee Set-ups and Calendar for 1989 at 7 P.M. This is for all Council members and Committee Chairpersons.

> Dec. 7th - Council meeting at 7 P.M.

> Dec. 6th - Sunday School teachers meeting at 7 P.M.

> Dec. 14th - Benevolence Committee meeting at 7 P.M.

The new Flower Chart for 1989 is now hanging in the Narthex. Please take a minute and sign up for flowers.

Daily Bread booklets for Dec., Jan., and Feb. are on the table in the Narthex.

> COOKIES, COOKIES, AND MORE COOKIES are needed for this upcoming holiday season of activities at the church. We need them for Dec. 11th Christmas Program, and on the 18th and 19th for the Christmas Cantata. If you would be so kind to help out, please let Helen Riemer know.

> POINSETTIA time is here! If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia or two to decorate the chancel of the church please fill in the information below and drop it in the offering plate. Deadline to order is Dec. 11th.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Price is \$6.10 each.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives you the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



SCRIP: LK ~~1:5-25~~ SERM: "SIMPLY DIVINE GIFTS: AN ANGEL"  
1:5-25

MENTIN XMAS & INSTINCTIVLY MANE THINK GET/GIV PRESENTS  
(ILUS AUNT & DISAPPOINTD NEHEW)  
(ILUS MAN SURPRIS WIFE)

XMAS GIFTS CANB MANY THING & USULY R

1 )SUR U HAV HERD PEO MAK FUS OVR SUM THEM & MAY HAV HERD  
SUMONE SAY:

"ISN'T THAT SIMPLY DIVINE"

IN ACTUALY GIFTS HAV BIN GIVN 2MANK WH/VER "SIMPLY DIVINE"

THIS YR DURING ADV WE WIL LK AT A FEW OF THEM

IN XMAS STORY OF SCRIP THER MANY CUD PIK OUT BUT WE GO 2LOOK  
AT TH/MOR IMPORT GIFTS WH/GOD GAV 2MANK

SUROUN BIRTH OF JS THER GIFT WH/APPEAR AT LEAST 5 TIMES

THAT GIFT WAS "AN ANGEL"

GOD GAV US HIS GIFT OF LUV IN TH/PERSON OF JS XP

~~XX~~

BUT ALONG W/THIS SUPREME GIFT GAV OTHR GIFTS AS EPISOD UNFOLD

AN ANGEL WAS ONE OF THOZ OTHR GIFTS

SO QUESTIN IS "WHY DID GOD USE THIS METHOD?"

JUST WAT R WE TALK ABOUT WEN SPK OF ANGELS????

(ILUS TWO BOYS TALK BOUT ANGELS & ANGELS IN "UNDERWARES")

ANGELS HAV BIN DEPIC MANY WAYS

WE KNO THEM AS HVNLY BEINGS CREAT BY GOD B4 GOD EVR FORM EARTH  
& TH/WORLD

THEY R MESNGRS GOD USES 2GET HIS MESAG OUT

WE CUD SPEND TIME LK EVIDENC ANGELS AS UNFOLD G'S WORD

BUT THIS MORN WE R GO 2LK AT JUS ONE ANGEL, ONE G'S MESNGRS

ZACH IN TEMPL WORK & WORK WAS BURN INCENC 2LORD THIS PARTIC DAY

THIS DUTY PRONLY DID ONCE IN LIFETIME, LOT FEL 2ZACH THIS DAY

CAN C WHY BCUZ THIS ACCORD G'S WONDRFUL TIMETABL

JA EVEN HAD TAK PLAC CERT SEQUENC AS G WAS WORK HIS PLAN OF

SALV OUT FOR MANKIND

VSS 8-11-TO STAN ON RT SIDWAS TO STAN IN PLAC OF G,ESPEC TEMPL

NATURLY THIS ALL HAD EFFECT ON ZACH SO WE READ.....

VS 12-TH/EFFEC WAS LIK LAKE OF SEA WH/CHURN,BOIL,RUF, & SCARE

GR TRUHLED=LIK CHURN/BOIL WATER & CREAT "FEAR"

GR FEAR=PHOBOS,ENG WORD "PHOBIA"

WORD MEAN=EXCEED FEARFUL,FIL W/FEAR, ALARMD, B AFRAID

ZACH WAS TERIFYD,BUT FEARS GRNDLES BCUZ ANGEL SPK .....

VS 13=NO NEED FEAR,NO PAS JUDGMEN GIV GUD NEWS BCUM FATHER OL AG

WAT SIGNIF THIS ANGEL? SUMONE SPECIL? JUS MESNGR OF GOD????

VS 19=ONLY 2ANGEL IDENTIFY IN ALL OF SCRIP

ARCH ANGEL MICHAEL & GABRIEL SPECIL ANGEL

GAB G'S SPECIL ANGEL OF MERCY & PROMIS

HE APPEAR 4TIMES IN BIBL & EA TIME BEAR GUD NEWS

GET 1ST VIEW OF HIM IN DANIEL & HE ANOUNC G'S PLAN FOR ENDTIME

DANIEL 8:15-17 = (READ THEZ VERSES)

DANIEL 8:15-17 = (READ THEZ VERSES)

THEN HE APPEAR 2nd TIME & READ THIS IN DANIEL 9:21-23

VSS 21-23=HERE GAB IMPART 2DAN TH/CUMING OF TH/MESIAH

THEN WE READ OF GAB IN NEW TESTAMENT

FIRST TO ZACH & THEN TO MARY AS ANUNCIATIN OF BABY JESUS

TH WE C G'S MESAGS WER DELIVR TO MANKIND

MAN HAS OPTUNITY 2SCOP & SNEER & EK AT THEZ EVENTS AS FAIRY

TALES OR MERLY TH/WAY OF DESCRIB THINGS WAY BAK THEN

AND U DONT HAV 2BLIEV IN ANGELS

BUT IF U DONT BLIEV IN ANGELS,THEN U DONT BLIEV WAT TH/BIBL

TELS US BOUT G'S PLAN 4US

AND IF U DONT BLIEV THAT G CAN STEP INTO HISTY IN A SPECIL

MESENGR THEN UR FAITH ISNT WORTH ANYTHING

IT ALL BOILS DWN TO SIMPL F-A-I-T-H

AS PEO ANALYZ THEZ VISITS 2ZACH & MARY, THER MAYB TNEDENCY TO

PAS OFF AS POSIBL THEN, BUT G DUZNT OPRAT THAT WAY 2DAY

BUT IF THAT IS TRU, THEN WHY DID G INSPIR TO WRIT IN THE

91st PSALM WAT HE DID???

IN THAT 91st PSALM WE READ IN VSS 9 THRU 12, (READ THEZ VSS)

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

PS 91:1-12: "WHO WILL STAND WHEN THE LORD SHALL CALL?"

THIS SCRIP ASURS US THAT ANGELS R WATCHING OVR US 2KEEP US FROM HARM

TH^RITR OF HEBREWS TELLS US IN CHAP 12, VS 1:

"WHEREFORE SEEING WE ALSO R COMPASSED ABOUT WITH SO GRT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US LAY ASID EVERY WEIGHT, & TH/SIN WH/BOTH SO EASILY BSST US, & LET US RUN W/PATIENC TH/RACE THAT IS SET B4 US"

NOW IF ANYONE SAYS HE DUZNT BLIEV EITHR OR BOTH OF THEZ SCRIPS THAT TEL OF G GIVING US PROTECTIN FR/HIS ANGELS, AND THAT THEY WATCH OVR US, HOS DUZ ANYONE EXPLAIN TH/NEAR MISSES OF LIFE???

HOW DO U EXPL TH/NARROW ESCAPES U HAV HAD FR/DETH OR SERIOUS INJURY IN MISHAPS U HAV HAD???

I'M CERTIN I'M NO DIF THAN ANYONE ELSE & I'VE HAD MY SHAR OF THEN CAN U THINK OF A SPECIF TIME WEN IT SEEMD LIK A MYSTERIUS HAND GUIDED URS, OR STEPPD IN TO KEEP U SAFE?

HOW DO U EXPL IT???

IS IT COINCIDENC? FATE???

IF U R A XPIAN THER IS NO SUCH THING AS A COINCIDENC, NOR SUCH A THING AS FATE

AS A XPIAN THINGS R EITHR OF GOD OR OF SATAN AND IF MYSTERIUS THINGS HAPPND IN UR LIFE TO SAVE U FR/DETH OR INJURY, IT WAS FR/GOD NOT SATAN BCUZ SATAN DUZNT LET GUD THINGS HAPPN TO BLIEVERS

AND IF U CANNOT ATRIBUT THAT TO GOD, TO WHOM DO U GIV CREDIT???

(ILUS CHINES BOOKSTORE AND DELIVRANC BY AN ANGEL)

WAS THAT UNKNWN STRNGR AN ANGEL??

V^WER TH/SOLDIERS UNABL TO ENTR THAT SHOP???

(1...S OF MISSIONARY IN CHINA & HER FOUR GUARDS)

WER THEY ANGELS? CUD U DEFINITELY PROV THEY WERNT???

(ILUS OF MARINES IN KOREA, WILD BOAR & S KOREAN ESCORT)

WAS IT JUS A COINCIDENC THAT TH/WILD PIG WAS PROVIDED FOR FOOD AND DINT HAV 2B SHOT??

WAS IT COINCIDENC THAT A SOUTH KOREAN APEARED & LED THEM 2SAFTY AND JUST WHO WAS HE???

IN FA THEZ INCIDENTS DO U BLIEV G PROVIDED HIS ANGELS TO PROTECT HIS OWN???

G'S GIFTS TO MAN HAV ALWAYS BIN VERY SIMPL & PLAIN, NUTHIN WE CUD CONSIDR ELABORAT

BUT YET, THKY HAV ALWAYS BIN OUT OF TH/ORDINARY

TH/BIRL SPKS DIF PLACES BOUT G'S MESNGRS, HIS ANGELS

THEY R SENT 4GUIDANC, PROTECTIN & 2GIV MESAGS FR/GOD. THEY R ONE OF HIS "SIMPLY DIVINE" GIFTS & THER MESAG THEN & 2DAY IS FEARNOT

GOD INVITS US 2TURN OUR LIVS OVR 2HIM & HE PROMS 2PROTEC US & 2REVEAL HIMSELF 2US. WE MAY NOT UNDRST ALL BOUT HIS GIFTS BUT ALL HE ASKS IS THAT WE CUM 2HIM IN FAITH & HE WIL DO TH/REST

# "Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

At mentin of Xmas, ther thoz instivly think get.giv presents (Ilus Aunt & disapoint nephew)

(Ilus man surpris wife & she no spk sinc last Xmas)

Xmas gifts canB many thing & usuly R

sur U hav herd peo mak fus ovr sum them & U may hav evn herd say sumth lik=Isnt that Simply Divin?

Wel, in actualty gifs hav bin givn 2mank wh/wer=Simply Divine & this yr we R go 2 lk sum them

In th/Xmas story as record Scrip ther R many wh cud pik out, but we R go 2 lk at th/mor import gifs G gav 2mank

Suroun birth Js ther is gif wh/appear in thoz events at least five times

That gift was=An Angel

G gav His gif luv in th/persn of Js Xp, but along w/this suprem gif He gav othr gifs as whol episod unfolded

An Angel was one of thoz gifs

So quest is=WHY DID G USE THIS METHOD? JUS WAT R WE TALK BOUT WEN WE SPK OF ANGELS?

(Ilus two boys talk bout angls &=Sum R Strngrs In Undrwns) Angls hav bin depic in many ways

We kno that they R hvnly beings creatd by G B4 G evr form erth & worl

They R His mesngrs wh/G use 2tel His mesag watevr it is We cud spend much tim lk at evidenc of angls as unfold in G's Word

But 4this morn, we go 2 lk at jus one of G's mesngrs Our act Bgin w/Zach work in templ

It fel 2 Zach at this tim 2perf th/duty of burn incens 2 th/L on this day

\*his was duty pr only did lnce in liftim

Th/lot fel 2 Zach on this day & we can C why

All this was acord G's wonfrul timtabl

Ea thez events had 2tak plac in cert sequenc as G work His plan salv out 4mank

vs 11=as Zach atend offr incens ther appear an Angel

2stan rt sid of altr was 2stan in th/plac of G especil in plac lik templ

naturly, this had efec on Zach & read=Vs 12

Th/efec this angl had on Zach was lik th/watr of lak/sea that is churning or boiling

this in essenc is wat Troubled means in this vs

So naturly if Zach Trubl lik churn/boil watr he fil w/fear Th/Gr FEAR=is PHOBOS=fr/wh/we get Engl word=PHOBIA & word

mean exceed fearfl, fil w/fear, alarmd, B afraid

Zach was terifyd, but fear wer grndles Bcus angl spks 2him & we read=Vs 13

in othr word, ther no need 4fear, th/mesngr of G is not ther 2pas judgmen on Zach, but 2giv gud news wud Bcum fathr



2/

But was is signif of this angl? Was he jus mesngr of G?  
 Or was he sumth specil?  
 Vs 19=In all Scrip only 2 angls R identfy=Archangl Mich & Gab  
 Gabriel was specil angl, He G's mesngr mercy/promis  
 he apear 4times in buk-Bibl, & ea tim bear gud news  
 1st read Gab=Dan 8:15-17-anounc G's plan 4end times  
 then Dan 9:21-23=here Gab impar th/cum of Mesiah  
 it then read of Gab in NT  
 1st apear Zach this Scrip & then apear Mary vss 26-28=READ  
 Thus can C G's mesags delivr 2mank & of cors, man always hav  
 optuntiy scof/sneer & say=Way bak then ther thoz tel thez fairy  
 tales & they hav no plac in our society  
 & wat wordly peo say in this respec is absolutly tru,  
 U dont hav 2Bliev in angls, but if U dont Bliev in angls then  
 U dont Bliev wat G's Word tel us bout His plan 4us,  
 & if U dont Bliev G can step in 2 histry in specil mesngr,  
 then UR faith isnt worth anyth  
 It all boil dwn 2this, & that is is it is pur & simply=FAITH  
 As peo analyz situatins as record G's Word such as Gab visit 2  
 Zach & Mary, tendncy is 2 perhaps Bliev it, but 2pas it off as  
 only B posibl way bak then, Bcuz=G Duznt Oprat That Way 2Day"  
 But if this tru, then why G inspir writr Ps tels us=Ps 91:9-12  
 this Scrip asur us ther R anpls watch ovr us 2keep us fr harm  
 Writr Heb tel us=12:1  
 now if U no Bliev withr thez scrips that tel how G giv protect  
 w/angls, & they watch ovr us, how do U expl sum times wen U had  
 a naco escap w/deth or serius injury????  
 Can U think of tim wen U had ~~xxxx~~ mystrius hand guid Urs, or  
 steppd in 2 keep U saf? How do U expl it? Coincidenc? Fate?  
 If U R a Xpian, ther is no such thing as coincidenc or fate  
 As a Xpian Uthings R eithr of G or of th/devil  
 if mysterius hpnings hav takn plac Ur lif wh/savd U fr/deth  
 injury, then it was fr/G Bcuz Satn duznt let gud thing hapn 2  
 Blievrs  
 & if U canot atribut that 2 G, 2whom do U giv credit?  
 (Ilus Chines bukstor & delivranc by angl)  
 Was that strngr an angl? Why wer soldrs unabl 2 entr?  
 (Ilus misinary in China & 4 gards)  
 Wer they angls? Cud U prov they definitly wernt?  
 (Ilus Marines in Korea, wild boar, S Korean gudie)  
 Was it coincidenc boar? Was it coincidenc s Korean? & who was?  
 in ea thez incidents do U Bliev G provid angls 2protec His own?  
 G's gifs 2man hav alway Bin very dimpl & plain, nuth we cud con-  
 sidr elabrat, but yet, they R alway out of ordnary  
 Th/Bibl spks many places bout G's mesnegrs, His angls  
 They R sent 4protectin, 4guidanc, & 2giv mesags fr/G  
 They R One of His Simply Divin Gifs, & ther mesag 2men of old &  
 2us 2day is=Fear Not G invites us 2turn livs ovr 2Him & He prom  
 protec & rev of Self=we may not undrst all this, but all He ask

(Ilus aunt & disaptd nepnew/  
 (Ilus man & wif no spk sinc las Xmas)  
 Wat R Angels?  
 (Ilus boys talk bout angels & sum R strngers in  
 undrwares - HEB 13:2)  
 v 1=Angl apear  
 vs 12=Truble=boil, stir water  
 Fear=Gr Phobos=exceed fearfl, alarmd  
 vs 13  
 vs 19=Gabriel one of two & apear 4times Bibl  
 Dan 8:15-17  
 9:21-23  
 vs 11  
 vss 26-28  
 Ps 91:9-12  
 Heb 12:1  
 No coincidenc or fate 4 Xpian  
 (Ilus Chines bukstor & strngr)  
 (Ilus Missinary China & 4 gards)  
 (Ilus Marines, wild boar, S. Kor guid)

Refrigeration, Air Conditioning  
 & Heating Supplies  
 We stock a full line of refrigeration and air conditioning  
 equipment for your business and pleasure

is that we cum 2Him in faith & He will do th/rest

DAILY LOG SHEET

DATE:

Artz, F.

Connelly, J.

Dodds, C.  
Dowell, V.

Johnson, K.

Leri, R.

Marzullo, M.  
Mast, M.  
McKnight, J.  
Miller, N.

ON LIST:



"Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

At the mention of Christmas, there are many who instinctively think of getting and giving presents.

(Illustration of Aunt and disappointed Nephew)

"I'm sorry you don't like my Christmas gift," the Aunt said to her Nephew, "but I asked if you preferred a large check or a small check."

He replied, "I know, but I didn't think you meant neckties."

(Illustration of man surprising his wife)

**A x m a i x z a i x h i x w i f e x n a z i \* k x r o k e n**

A man said, "My wife hasn't spoken to me since last Christmas."

His friend asked why and he said, "Well, I asked her what she wanted for Christmas and she said, 'Oh, just surprise me.'"

So at three o'clock Christmas morning , I leaned over and went, 'BOO!'"

Christmas gifts can be many things and they usually are. I'm sure you have heard people making a fuss over some of them and you may have even heard someone say something like,

"Isn't that simply divine?" Well, in actuality, gifts have been given to mankind which

were "Simply Divine," and this year we are going to look at a few of them. In the Christmas story as recorded in Scripture there are many that we could pick out. But we are going to look at the more important gifts which God gave to mankind.

Surrounding the birth of Jesus there is a gift which appears in those events at least ~~four~~ five times. That gift was ~~an~~ "An Angel."

If God gave us His Gift of Love in the person of Jesus Christ. But along with this supreme gift, He gave other gifts as this whole episode evolved. An Angel was one of those other gifts. So the question is, "Why did God use this method?" ~~Why~~ Just what are we talking about when we speak of angels?

(Illustration of two boys talking about angels)

A preacher ~~was~~ preached a sermon from the book of Hebrews and the verse which was his text was Hebrews 13:2, which states, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels <sup>of</sup> unawares."

A little boy heard that sermon and he was telling one of his friends about angels. His friend said that angels had wings to which the first boy thought back to what the preacher had said and he stated that angels did not have wings. The other boy insisted and the boy who heard the sermon said, "That isn't true. Our preacher said that some of them are strangers in underwears."

Angels have been depicted in many ways. We know that they are heavenly beings created by God before God ever formed the earth and the world. They are His messengers which God uses to tell His message whatever it is. We could spend much time in looking at the evidence of angels as it unfolds in God's Word. But for this morning, we are going to look at just one of God's messengers.

Our account begins with Zacharias working in the temple. It fell to Zacharias at this time to perform the duty of burning incense to the Lord on this particular day. This was a duty that a priest only did once in his lifetime. The lot fell to Zacharias on this day and we can see why. All of this was according to God's wonderful timetable. Each of these events had to take place in a certain sequence as God was working His plan of salvation out for mankind.

As Zacharias was attending to offering the incense on the altar, we read, "And there appeared

unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense." vs 11. To stand at the right side was to stand in the place of God especially in a place like the temple. Naturally, this had an effect upon Zacharias and we read, "And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him." vs 12.

The effect this angel had on Zacharias was <sup>LIKE</sup> the water of a lake or sea that is churning and boiling. This is the essence of what the word "troubled" means in this verse. So naturally if Zacharias was troubled like churning, boiling water, he was filled with fear. The Greek word for "fear" here is the word "PHOBOS," from which we derive our English word Phobia. That word here means to be exceedingly fearful, filled with fear, ~~alarmed~~, be afraid.

Zacharias was terrified. But his fears are groundless, because the angel speaks to him, and we read, "But the angel said to him, 'Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.'"

In other words, there was no need for fear. This messenger of God was not there to pass judgement upon Zacharias, but to give him the good news that he would become a father in his old age.

But what is the significance of this angel? Was he just a messenger of God? Or was he someone special? In the 19th verse we read, "And the angel answering ~~him~~ said unto him, 'I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.'"

In all of Scripture only two angels are identified. One is the arch-angel Michael, and the other is Gabriel. This was a special angel. Gabriel was God's messenger of mercy and promise. He appears four times in the Bible and each time he bears good news. We first read of Gabriel in the book of Daniel. In Daniel 8:15-17 we get our first glimpse of him and he ~~announces~~ announces God's plan for the end time, (read these verses).

Then Gabriel appears to Daniel a second time and we read of this in the 9th chapter verses 21-23, (read these verses). Here Gabriel is imparting to Daniel the coming of the Messiah. It is then that we read of Gabriel in the New Testament. First he appears to Zacharias in this Scripture for this morning and then he appears to Mary as we read in verses 26-28, (read these verses).

Thus we can see that God's messages were delivered to mankind. Of course, ~~we~~ man always has the final opportunity to scoff or sneer and say "that was way back when and those 'fairy tales' have no place in our time or society." And what worldly people say in this respect is absolutely true. You don't have to believe in angels. But if you don't believe in angels, then you don't believe what God's Word tells us about His plan for us; and if you don't believe that God can step into history in a special messenger, then your faith isn't worth anything. And that is what it all boils down to, and that is pure and simple FAITH.

As people analyze situations as recorded in God's Word such as Gabriel's visit to Zacharias and Mary, the tendency is ~~to~~ to perhaps believe it, but to pass it off as only being possible back then, "Because God doesn't operate that way today." But if this is true then why did God inspire the Psalm writer to write to us in the 91st Psalm, and to tell us, (Read verses 9-12). This Scripture assures us that there are angels watching over us to keep us from harm.

Then the writer of Hebrews tells us in the 12th chapter, the 1st verse, (Read this).



Now if you say you don't believe either of these two Scriptures that tell us God gives us protection with His angels, and that they watch over us, how do you explain some of the times when you had a very narrow escape with death or serious injury? Can you think of a specific time when it seemed like a mysterious hand guided yours, or stepped in to keep you safe?

How do you explain it? Coincidence?? Fate??

If you are a Christian, there is no such thing as a co-incidence, nor is there a thing such as fate. As a Christian, things are either of God or of the devil. And if mysterious happenings have taken place in your life which saved you from death or injury, then it was from God, because Satan doesn't let good things happen to ~~xxx~~ believers. And if you cannot attribute that to God, to whom do you give credit?

(Illustration of Chinese bookstore and deliverance by an "angel")

In 1942 the Japanese had defeated the Chinese. In Shanghai, China there was a Christian bookstore. One morning about 9:00 A.M. a Japanese truck stopped in front of the store. The truck was carrying five marines and was half-filled with books. The Chinese shop assistant, a Christian man, looked out of the window and he knew what was going to happen. Jumping from the truck the marines headed for the door, but before they could enter, a neatly dressed Chinese gentleman entered the shop ahead of them. Though the shop assistant knew almost all of the local people who traded there, this man was a complete stranger. For some unexplained and unknown reason the soldiers seemed unable to follow him. They loitered outside and kept looking in the four large windows, but not entering. For two hours they stood outside without going in. The stranger asked the clerk what the soldiers wanted and the clerk told him he thought they were after the Christian books. The stranger prayed with the clerk and the two hours slipped by. At last the soldiers climbed into their army truck and drove away. The stranger left, without making a purchase or even asking about items in the store. Later that day the shop owner came in and the shop-assistant asked him, "Do you believe in angels, Mr. Lee?" The owner answered that he did.

Was that ~~xxxxxxx~~ unknown stranger an angel? Why were the soldiers seemingly unable to enter that shop?

(Illustration of missionary in China and her four "guards")

In a Chinese city bandits had surrounded the mission compound which sheltered hundreds of women and children. The night before, the missionary there had been put to bed with a serious attack of malaria. As she laid in bed it seemed as though the devil was taunting her and asking her, "When the bandits come in here, how are those promises you believe in going to protect those women and children?" In her fever and despair she cried out to God to fulfill His promises. The next night the situation was just as tense and she spent that night encouraging the people. Though serious things were happening outside of the compound, the bandits did not try to enter.

The following morning, people from three different neighboring families asked her, "Who were those four people, three sitting, and one standing, quietly watching from the top of your house all night long?" When she told them there were no people there, they refused to believe her. They said, "We saw them with our own eyes." It was then that she had to tell them of her prayers and how God must have sent His angels to protect them.

Were they angels? Could you definitely prove they weren't?

(Illustration of Marines in Korea and wild boar, and South Korean escort)

During the Korean War a group of Marines had been trapped up north. They were surrounded. The temperature was 20° below zero, and they hadn't eaten for six days. Their choice was to either freeze to death, or surrender to the Chinese. One of the men who was a Christian pointed out some Scriptures to the men and he taught them to sing a song of praise to God. Following this they heard a noise of something coming through the brush and there coming toward them was a wild boar. They jumped out of the way, and one of the soldiers raised his rifle to shoot, but before he could pull the trigger, the boar dropped over dead. That night they feasted on meat and began to regain their strength. The next morning just as the sun was rising, they heard another noise and expected a Chinese to

patrol to appear and take them captive. Instead, they found themselves face to face with a South Korean who could speak English. He said, "I will show you out." He led them through the forest and the mountains to safety behind their own lines. When they stopped to thank him, he had disappeared and they could not find him.

Was it just a co-incidence that the wild pig was provided for food and they didn't even have to shoot it? Was it co-incidence that a South Korean appeared and led to them to safety? And just who was he? In each of these incidents, do you believe that God provided His angels to protect His own?

God's gifts to man have always been very simple and plain. Nothing we could consider elaborate. But yet, they have always been out of the ordinary. The Bible speaks in many places about God's messengers, His angels. They are sent for protection, for guidance, and to give messages from God. They are one of His "Simply Divine Gifts." And their message to men of old and to us today is simply, "Fear not." God invites us to turn our lives over to Him and He promises to protect us and to reveal Himself to us. We may not understand all of His gift, but all He asks is that we come to Him in faith and He will do the rest.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 11, 1988  
Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Dave Brinker

\*\*\*\*\*  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Processional Hymn No. 193 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

\*Ascription

\*Exhortation

\*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God: we confess ourselves unworthy of Thine unspeakable Gift. We have not loved Thee as we ought; nor have we always been loving to one another. We have lived in selfishness and worldly pride; and the good gifts Thou hast bestowed upon us we have not used to relieve the burdens of others. Pardon and blot out our offenses; through the incarnate life of Thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Kyrie

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Children's Moment

Hymn No. 185 "Away in a Manger"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: A Young Woman"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 178 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*\*\*\*\* \*Congregation Standing \*\*\*\*\*

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in memory of family loved ones.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stewart will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Serving as Ushers today are: Sandy Sheppeck, Erla Hollefreund, Isabel Eichhorn and Helen Crouse.

Attendance last Sunday was 130 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Joan Campbell.

Van Driver for December 18th will be Ken Draxinger.

Art Snyder and Howard Jaillet will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Paul Campbell and Mrs. Elva McCormick in BMH

*DICK DALLY - GROVE CITY*

LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE is going up on Tuesday evening. If

you are able to help to do this, please come at 7 P.M.

Bring a few carpenter tools and we will all work together to get the job done.

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE will have its final meeting of the year on December 14th at 7:00 P.M.

CAROLING, CAROLING oh what fun we have. If you would like

to have some fun and bring some good cheer to our shut-

ins, join us here at the church at 6:30 P.M. We will

fill the Van and car pool if needed. Then we will

return for refreshments, all on December 16th.

COOKIES are still needed for December 18th and 19th. Please

let Helen Riemer know if you would be able to bring

some. This is for the refreshments following the choirs

presentation of "Noel, Jesus is Born", their cantata.

Hope you will come and hear the message through songs.

TONIGHT at 7:00 P.M. the children of the Sunday School will

be doing a play for the Family Christmas Program. Bring

the children and join in the fun, also we will have a

visitor in a red suit.

POINSETTIA time is now. If you would like to order one or

two, or etc., please drop a note in the offering plate

today. They are \$6.10 each, and the ordering deadline

is today. These will remain in the church for Christmas

Eve service as well as Christmas day.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to

each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your

life. This invitation gives you the opportunity to

accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counsel-

ing. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - DECEMBER 6, 1998

PRELUDE  
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

*IVAN MYBAM DRYATE TREE*

*Common DEC 20*

\*HYMN  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN  
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:26-38  
SERMON: "SIMPLY DIVINE GIFTS: A YOUNG WOMAN"

\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 12/11/88

*WATKE - HEANT*

SCRIP: LUKE 1:26-38; SERM: "SIMPLY DIVINE GIFTS: A YOUNG WOMAN"

(ILUS BOY TV GIFT FOR SON, & COLLECTOR FOR GIFT)  
CONTRARY 2THIS G NEVR WORK THIS WAY

NO GIV GIFT & DEMAN PAY 4IT  
GOD GIV GIFTS NO STRING ATACH  
GOD HAS GIV "SIMPLY DIVIN" GIFTS & 2DAY IK AT A YNG WOMAN  
(GOD, CREATIN, ADAM/EVE, & GOD FROMIS GEN 3:15)

LAST WK IK AT 25ERDLY DIVIN GIFTS - ANGEL  
ANGEL NAM=GABRIEL, & HE PLAY ROL LIF THIS YNG WOMAN

VS 26= SIX MNTHS APLY ELIZ WHOM GAB VISIT SCRIP LAS WK, NOW READ..

VS 27=MARY ENGAG 2B MARRY

JOSEPH IDENTFY AS JEW - (HONS OF DAVID)

GOD FROM SPECIL GIFT CUM FR/CHCSN PEOP - JEWS

WHO WAS MARY??? - NO KNO, MUS BIN SPECIL PERSN

GAB HAD SPECIL MESAG 4HER.....

VS 28=HAIL MEANS=JOY, REJOIC, GOD SPEED

HIGHLY=PRE-EMINENCE, A FRONT ROW SEAT

FAVORED=TO GRACE W/SPECIL HONOR

THIS VS MEANS=GOD SPEED YOU WITH A FRONT ROW SEAT, U HAV BIN  
GRACED WITH A SPECIL HONOR

WAT WAS MARY'S REACTION TO THIS?????.....

VS 29=WHO CUD BLAME HER FOR FEEL THIS WAY

VS 30=HERE GAB TEL HER SAME THING TOLD XXX ZACHARIAS

VSS 31-33=GAB HAS TOL HER WAT TASK IS & MARY HAS COMPLET STORY

BUT MARY AWAR WAT MORALTY THAT DAY WAS & SO SHE ANSERS.....

VS 34=NORMAL QUESTIN

SO GAB EXPL THIS NO ORDINARY CONCEPTIN - READ VSS 35-36



VSS 35-36=MARY LEARN NO ORDINARY CONCEPTIN  
 SUMTH MIRACULUS WIL HAPPN 2HER AS SUMTH MIRACULUS HAS HAPPN  
 2ELIZABETH

VS 37=TH/EXPLANATIN OF ALL THIS  
 GAB REMINS MARY G CAN DO IMPOSIBL & THIS SHUD PRUV 2US GOD IS  
 NOT LIMITED AS WE R  
 ) TH/BURIN OF PRUF IS ON MARY  
 G HAS GIVN SPECI LNEWS & SHE HAS OPORTUNTY 2PRUV IF SHE IS  
 THE RT PERSN OR NOT

VS 38=MARY'S ANSWER  
 WAT WUD HAV HAPPN IF MARY HAD REFUSED??  
 BUT GOD KNU HER HART & SELEC HER ABUV ALL OTHR WOMEN 2BEAR  
 THIS SPECIL CHILD  
 (EXPL=ESPOUSED/ENGAGD, NO PHY CONTAC & IF PREG CUD STOND ADULTRY  
 JOSEPH CUD DIVORC HER & AS HER ACUSN CUD CAST 1ST STONE

VSS 39-40=LK WAT MARY DID - WENT VISIT ELIZ CONFIRM WAT GAB TOLD  
 VS 56=MARY CHOS BAD TIME/PLACE 2B AWAY FR/HOME  
 ZACH PRIEST & PRIESTS ADMINSTR LAW  
 IF SHE ADULTRES HE WUD HAV HER PUNISHD  
 IF ZACH NO DO SO,HE NO FULFIL MOSAIC CODE  
 REASON FOR IT-ZACH KNU ALL THIS WAS FROM GOD  
 XXXXXXXXXXELIZXXXXXXXVINITXXX

HE KNU BOTH HE & MARY BIN VISIT BY GABRIEL, G'S ANGEL  
 THIS MENT G WAS GO 2DO SUMTH WONDERFUL THRU THEM  
 HE KNU BOUT MESIAH 2CUM & HOW HIS SON 2B 4RUNNR  
 SO NOW HE KNU HOW GOD WUD DO THIS  
 (ILUS NATIVITY SCENE & CHILDEN EXPLAIN IT)

THIS SITUATIN MARY, ELIZ, ZACH FND SELVS IN  
 BUT BUTY OF IT WAS G HAD PLANND IT ALL  
 AS USUAL HE WAS USING COMCN ORDINARY PEOP  
 ) WITH BOUT MARY OTHR THAN SHE CHOSN BY G 2DO THIS  
 SHE DIDNT UNDERST WHO OR WAT THIS CHILD WAS 2B

PERHAPS ONLY AFTR HE AROS FR/GRAY DID SHE UNDERSTAN WHY GOD USED  
 HER TO BRING HIM INTO TH/WORLD

BUT WE DO KNO SHE MUS HAV BIN A SIMPLY DIVIN GIFT THAT GOD  
 PLACED IN THIS WORLD FOR TH/PURPOS OF USING HER IN HIS PLAN OF  
 SALVATIN  
 THIS SIMPLY DIVIN GIFT WAS & IS FOR EACH PERSN A SAVIOR WHICH  
 IS CHRIST TH/LORD  
 ACCEPT THAT GIFT ANEW TODAY

But in acpt this task,Mary knu ther certin stigma atach 2do so  
 1st,she only engag 2 Jos,not yet marry 2him & she wil very  
 obviously B preg  
 ther was 2B no phy contac tween engag coupl,but engag ac bind  
 as marag & if she Bcan preg B4 marag,Jos wud renounc pub & she  
 reciev penalty of law wh/was ston 4adultry  
 it wudB Jos who cast 1st stone at her  
 So arm w/all legl impications involv,lk wat Mary duz=VSS 39-40  
 & this is folo by news in vs 56  
 import of this is if Mary want get away fr/blam or criticism  
 in this obvius situ wher sh go 2hav baby & not yet marry,she  
 chos wrong way 2do it  
 Zach,Eliz husband was a priest & it was pr who admin law & law  
 sed adulres 2B punish by ston 2deth  
 4Zach 2harbr very obvius adulres undr his roof unthinkbl & 4  
 him not 2bring legl actin agin her is inexcusbl  
 but we dont read any such actin tak plac & reasn is,Zach knu th  
 this fr/G  
 He prob no kno all detail,but knu enuf that both he & Mary  
 had bin visit by angel Gab & C was go 2do sumth wonderful thru  
 them  
 He knu all bout prom Mesiah & had bin tol Son wudB 4runnr of  
 that Mesiah,& now knu G go 2bring this bout  
 (Ilus liv nativity scen & childrn discus=Liv Fertilty Scene)  
 This situ Mary,Zach,Eliz fnd selvs involv in  
 But buty all this was G plan it & mwk as usul He use plain,  
 ord comon peo  
 We kno nuth bout Mary othr than fac she no undrst who,wat this  
 child was that G gav 2 her  
 it prob only aftr deth & resurectin she undrestud why G use her  
 2bring Him into th/world  
 bu e do know she was a Simply Divin Gift that G placd in this  
 world 4 th/purp of use her in His plan of salv 4mank  
 this exampl G can use anyone for His purps & He wants 2use us  
 as wel  
 He invites us 2turn our livs ovr 2Him & let Him use us as He wi  
 This invitatin is ours 2day,  
 R we availbl 4 Him?

"Simply Divine Gifts: A Young Woman"

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38  
 (Ilus family, gift TV 4son, & collectr 4 th/gift)  
 Now contrary 2this G nevr givs gift & demans paymen 4it  
 His gifs 2mank hav bin many & they R giv w/no string attach  
 This morn we continu them=Divin gifs & 2day gif is=Yng Woman  
 G had plan wh/dates bak 2creatin  
 Ev falln victims 2wiles of Satn thus bring deth/sep fr/G  
 G knu in ord restor relationship w/man,had entr worl uniqu way  
 So G prom wud do by say=Gen 3:15  
 Here G spk Satn in serp & proph one pt worl histry wud step in  
 in specil way  
 It was 2B=SEED OF WOMN,not of man;SEED OF ONE PERSN,not two that  
 produc this specil persn  
 Many prophs latr,approx=3982yrs latr read this intrventin  
 Las wk lk how G did thru Simply Div Gifs & Angls,& that angl was  
 Gab & this morn we C he vital part 2nd gif fr/G wh/Yng Woman  
 Vs 26=th/6th month refr Eliz preg,who bin vist by Gab  
 vs 27=Gab sent specil erand 2specil persn  
 yng womn engag 2B marry 2man Jos who identfy as Jew & G prom  
 specil gif wud cum fr/Chosn peo th/Jews  
 Who was Mary? We no kno 4cert,all kno is Yng Womn engag 2B marry  
 & mesag giv=Vs 28  
 Hail=Rejoic,Joy,God speed  
 Highly=Pre-eminenc,a front row seat  
 Favoured=To grace with special honor  
 2gethr=G speed,U hav front row seat,Bcuz U bin grac w/specil hon  
 Wat Mary reactin? vs 29  
 Who cud blame her? It specil even wh/btot angl of G 2appear 2  
 humans & Mary knu thisv  
 vs 30=Gab tel Mary sam as tol Zach but tel her she specil agin  
 vss 31-35=now Mary has complet story & she kno wh this specil  
 itatin tak place  
 vs 34=Mary awar circ ms of lif & kno w/fulfil plan this contrary  
 2 th/acpt morality of day & so she anrs=vs 34  
 vss 35-36=Mary lerns this wilB no ord conceptin as Gab expl  
 Mary made awar not only sumth miraculus wud hapn 2her,but also  
 sumth miraculus harn 2 Eliz  
 vs 37=G can do imposibl & He wil do thru her  
 this lessn we mus lern that G no limit lik we R  
 so it is this Yng Woman now arm w/specil news G impart 2her,  
 she has opourtuny 2sho whthr she rt persn 4th/job & she anrs  
 VS 38  
 she acpts challeng G set B4 her & one wondrs wat wud hav hapn if  
 Mary had refus G's offr  
 But G knu her hart & G had selec her fr/all womn availbl 2  
 bear this specil gift

(Ilus 00% iv gift & U wants paymen 4it)  
 Contrary G no work this way  
 Gen 3:15  
 3982yrs latr C this intrventin  
 vs 26=fmos Eliz preg  
 vs 27=Gab sent specil persn  
 vs 28=  
 Hail=Rejoic,Joy,god speed  
 Highly=Pre-em,front row seat  
 Favoured=To grace w/specil honor  
 2gethr=Mary,U hav front row seat,Bcuz U bin gracd  
 w/specil honor  
 vs 29  
 vs 30  
 vss 31-33  
 vs 34=Mary awar morality of day  
 vss 35-36  
 vs 37  
 vs 38  
 vss 39-40 & 56  
 (Ilus Liv Fertilty Scene)

Refrigeration Air Conditioning  
 & Heating Supplies  
 We stock a full line of refrigeration and air conditioning  
 equipment for homes and businesses.



## "Simply Divine Gifts: A Young Woman"

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

(Illustration of family, gift of TV for son, & collector for gift)

A family in Chicago was very spiritual and when anything good happened to them, they said it was a gift from ~~God~~ the Lord. Jimmy, the youngest member of the family wanted a television set for his Christmas present. So his mother and dad got him one and put it under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning he was overjoyed with it and his mother told him it was a gift from the Lord and he should thank Him for it. A few months later a man came to the door and Jimmy spoke to him. "Who was at the door, Jimmy?" his mother asked.

"It was the Lord," Jimmy replied, "He wants the third payment on his gift."

Now contrary to this, God never gives a gift and then demands payment for it. His gifts to mankind have been many and they are given with no strings attached. This morning we are continuing the theme, "Simply Divine Gifts," and today that gift is, "A Young Woman."

God had a plan which dates back to the time of creation. Adam and Eve had fallen victims to the wiles of Satan, thus bringing death and separation from God. God knew that in order to restore that relationship with man, He had to enter into man's world in a unique way. So

God promised that He would do that by saying as recorded in Genesis chapter 3; verse 15,

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."

Here, God is speaking to Satan in the serpent and prophesying that at one point in the history of the world He would step into that world in a special way. It was to be the "seed of the woman," not ~~the~~ of man; the seed of one person, not two that was to produce this special person. Many prophecies later, approximately 3,982 years later in fact, we read that intervention into our midst.

Last week we began our look at how God did this through "Simply Divine Gifts," by examining "Angels." That angel was named Gabriel and this morning we see that he is a vital part of this second gift from God, which was "A Young Woman."

Our Scripture begins, "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth." verse 26.

The reference to the "sixth month," is to the pregnancy of Elizabeth who had been visited by Gabriel in our Scripture portion of last week. Gabriel was sent on a special errand to a special person and we read, "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." verse 27.

This young woman was engaged to be married to ~~an~~ a man named Joseph who is identified as being a Jew. God had promised that His special gift would come from His chosen people the Jews. Who was Mary? We can't say for certain. All that we know is that she was a young woman engaged to be married and Gabriel has a special message for her. That message was, "And the angel came in unto her and said, 'Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.'" verse 28.

A startling statement to say the least. The word "Hail" means "Joy, rejoice, God speed."

The word "Highly" means, "a pre-eminence, a front row seat."

And the word "Favored" means "to grace with special honor."

So if we put these words and their meanings together we have, "God speed, you with a front row seat, you have been graced with a special honor." And what was Mary's reaction?



We read, "And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be," verse 29.

And who could blame her? It was a special event which brought an angel of God to appear to human beings and Mary knew this. But then Gabriel tells her exactly the same thing which he told Zacharias, (read verse 30). Gabriel reiterates that Mary is special and God has chosen her for a special task. And then Gabriel tells her what that task is, (read verses 31 through 33). Now Mary has the complete story. She knows why this special visitation has taken place. But Mary is aware of the circumstances of life and she knows that ~~wixx~~ the fulfillment of all of this plan is contrary to the accepted morality of that day, and so she answers, (read verse 34).

It is then that Mary learns that this will be no ordinary conception as Gabriel explains it to her, (read verses 35 and 36). Mary is made aware that not only was something miraculous going to happen to her, but something also miraculous has happened to Elizabeth. The explanation is, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." verses 37. Gabriel reminds Mary that God can do the impossible and He was going to do it through her as well. And this is a lesson we need to learn as well and that is God is not limited as we are.

So it is that this "Young Woman," who is now armed with the special news that God has imparted to her, has the opportunity to show whether she is the right person for the task, and she answers, (read verse 38). She accepts the challenge God has set before her. One wonders what would have happened if Mary had refused God's offer. But God knew her heart and God had selected her from all of the women available to bear this special gift. But in ~~xxxxxxx~~ accepting this task, Mary is aware that there will be a certain stigma attached to doing so. First of all she was only engaged to Joseph, not yet married to him. She will very obviously be very pregnant. There was to be no physical contact during the engagement period, but being engaged was as binding as marriage. So if she became pregnant before they were married, Joseph would have to renounce her publicly, and she was subject to receive the penalty of the law for adultery and that was stoning to death. It would be Joseph who as the accuser by law who would cast the first stone. Well aware of all of the legal and moral implications involved, look at what Mary does as recorded in the 39th and 40th verses, ~~(xxxxxxx)~~ and this is followed by the news in verse 56, "And Mary abode with her about three months and returned to her own house."

The importance of this is that if Mary wanted to get away from any blame or criticism in the obvious situation where she was going to have a baby and was not yet married, she chose a bad way to do it. Zacharias, Elizabeth's husband was a priest. It was the priests who had to administer the law, and the law said that an adulteress was to be punished by stoning to death. For Zacharias to harbor a very obvious adulteress under his roof was unthinkable, and for him not to bring legal action against ~~her~~ was inexcusable. But we do not read of any such action taking place. And the reason is, that Zacharias knew that this was from God. He probably didn't know everything about all of this, but he knew enough that both ~~Elizabeth and Mary~~ he and Mary had been visited by Gabriel and God was going to do something wonderful through them.



He knew all about the promised Messiah and he had been told how his son would be the fore-runner of that Messiah. And now he knew how God was going to bring this about.

(Illustration of nativity scene and children explaining it)

A minister in a church in Naples, Florida tells of being in his office on the first Saturday in December and outside in the courtyard the men of the church were building a stage for a live nativity scene. Some children were watching what was going on and one asked the other, "What is this going to be?" The other boy answered, "Oh, they are building a live fertility scene."

This is the situation that Mary and Elizabeth and Zacharias found themselves involved in. But the beauty of all of this was that God had planned it and as usual, He was using plain ordinary, common people. We know nothing about Mary other than the fact that she didn't completely understand who or what this child was that God gave her. Perhaps it was only after He has arisen from the grave that she understood why God had used her to bring Him into the world. But we do know that she must have been a "Simply Divine Gift" that God placed in this world for the purpose of using her in His plan of salvation for mankind

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 18, 1988  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Mr. Robert Weisenstein, Liturgist  
Acolytes: Wendy Norman and Kelly Mangel

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

\*Processional Hymn No. 175 "While Shepherds Watched  
Their Flocks by Night"

\*Ascription

\*Call to Communion and Confession (Communion Folder)

\*Prayer of Confession (Communion Folder)

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Offering

Offertory

Doxology - page 382

Communion Hymn No. 168 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Service of Holy Communion (Page 2 of Communion Folder)

The Lord's Supper

Distribution of the Bread

Distribution of the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: Shepherds"

\*Closing Hymn No. 179 "The First Noel"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Betty Tressler will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.

Those serving Communion this morning will also serve  
as Ushers.

Nursery will be provided today by Donna Pflugh.

Ken Draxinger and Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

Hospitalized: Elva McCormick, Paul Campbell, Clarence Wolfe.  
Attendance last Sunday was 105 with 12 visitors.

Van Driver for December 25th is Dick Mangel.

Van Driver for Christmas Eve Service will be Bill Snyder.

Our Anthem today is part of our Communion Service. There-  
fore please don't take offense to the fact that we are  
not singing to the congregation. We as one body are  
doing this so as not to distract from the Lord's Supper.  
The title of our anthem is "If We Truly Believe."

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE will come alive tonight at 7:30  
as the Choir presents its Cantata, "Noel Jesus Is Born."

We hope that you will come tonight or tomorrow night for  
the second presentation. Call your friends and/or  
neighbors and relatives and bring them along. Following  
the service, we would like you to join us in Rehoboth  
Hall for a fellowship reception.

COOKIES are still needed for the reception following the  
Cantata tonight and Monday night. If you would like to  
bring some in, please see Helen Riemer.

The Communion Cards are in the back of the pews. Please  
take a minute and fill in this information for your 1988  
records. Just drop them in the offering plate.

The Flower Chart for 1989 is hanging in the Narthex. Please  
stop and fill in the date you wish to place flowers on  
the altar.

Today before or after the service please stop and pick up  
your offering envelopes for 1989. Also if you would  
please take those that are members of your family it will  
help me out in making sure that everyone receives them  
in time for January 1st, 1989. Thank you.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.  
The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU ON THIS BLESSED HOLIDAY!!!



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - DECEMBER 13, 1998

PRELUDE  
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

NEXT WK DEC. 20 CHRISTMAS DINNER AFTER CH.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - THIRD SUNDAY

\*HYMN  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:8-20

SERMON: "SIMPLY DIVINE GIFTS: SHEPHERDS"

ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER - 12/13/88

\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

RENE - EYES

CONTRAST IN THE SEASONS; simply divine gifts; shepherds?

AS XMAS SEASON CONTINU MOV TULT CLIMAX DEC 25, AWARE COMMERCIALISM & CONSUMERISM OF TH/SEASON

LEF W/CHOIC GET CAUTUP HUSTL/BUSTL OR KEEP PERSPECTIV WAT G GAV (ILUS PARAPHRASE OF LUKE 2:8-20 BY DEL GLICK PASTOR GOSHEN, IND)

MAY NO B TRU THOZ W/IN CH, (I HOPE NOT), BUT TRU MUCH SOCIETY ANALYZ CAN C SATAN SEEK THWART MESAG OF XMAS - (EXPL SALV)

AUT EVN CH PEO MAY NOT WANT LK AT AS B FR/SATAN

(ILUS TWO GIRLS IN SS, & STAN LK SANTA CLAUS, ITS UR FATHR) SATAN CANT LET MESAG OUT & SO CONFUSIN WAT XMAS ABOUT

THUS MILIONS PEO NO KNO G SENT SPECIL GIFTS, DIVIN GIFTS 2PT WAY TO TH/SAVIOR

PICTUR SHEPS WATCH SHEEP COLD WINTR NITE & WE READ..... VSS 8-9=ANGEL AGIN, PROB GAB LK 2ZACH & MARY

WHO WER THEZ MEN? & ANSR IS THEY NOBODYS, ACTULY OUTCAST SOCIETY DESPIS BY ORTH BCUZ NO KEEP CEREMON LAW=HANDWASH, RITUALS, ETC

BCUZ MUS TEND FLOCKS

HONESTY/INTEG QUESTINBL & NO ALLOW TESFY IN CORT

MAN MAY CAL UNCLEAN, BUT G DIDNOT, CHOZ HUMBL/DWNRTH MEN 2C WAT HE, GOD WAS 2DO THIS BIRTH

JS BORN HUMBLY=PARENTS, BARN-MANGER, HUMBL PEO CUM-SHEPS

(ILUS DETHS CCMON MAN & COUNTRY SINGER, HOW WOBL LK THINGS)

PRUF GLORFY GLAMOR PLATD WAT CCMON/ORDINARY

VS 10=FEAR NOT AGIN - JOY=CHARA IN LK ALWAY ASSOCIAT W/SALV GRT JOY WH/WILB=SALV 4ALL & REASN=VSS 11=SAV MEANS REDEEMR

SHEPS PROB PIUS MEN & KNU SCRIP BOUT MESIAH/DELIVRER

CHRIST TH/LORD=TH/ANCINTD ONE FR/GOD

VSS 15-17, 20=THEY CAM BETH & SAW 4SELVS

PROB NO UNDRST ALL THIS, BUT KNU SAC MUD HAV 2TAK PLAC 2REDEEM

IRONY OF THIS=THEZ SHEPS PROB VERY ONES TEND LAMS 2B USED NEX

PASOVR 2GRANT 4GIFTS TO TH/JEWS

THOZ LAMS PASTUR OUTSID BATH & TAKN PROP TIME TEMPL 4FEAST PASS

( HERE SHEPS OF SAC LAMS VISIT TH/LAMB OF GOD

VSS 17 & 20 PT OUT NOTHR PURPOS SHEPS SERV

SERV AS 1ST EVANGELISTS - VSS 17B & 20B (READ THIS)

THEY RECEIV, NO KEEP SELVS, BUT SPRED WORD

VS 18=PT OUT WAT HAPN W/MESAG - PEOPL WONDERED, SUM BLIEV, DISBLIEV

JN WROT=HE CAM UN2HIS OWN & HIS OWN RECEIVD HIM NOT - JN 1:11

THIS BIN REACTIN OF WOBL EVR SINC JS CAM INTO IT

(ILUS BING CROSBY & DISTRANT NEIGHBOR & TURN AWAY CAROLS)

THIS ESENC WAT WOBL HAS BUN & CONTINUES 2DO W/JS

PERHAPS BES EXPL IN STORY BOUT XMAS PLAY:

(ILUS XMAS PLAY, LITES TURNED OFF, & "U SWITCHD OFF JS")

WE R INVITD BY GOD 2TAK HIM IN2OUR HARTS/LIVS & TURN US ON

BUT 2MANY PEO DO TH/EXACT OBOSIT

R U BOTH BY THIS SEASON & TURNED OFF BY IT??

IF U R U HAV UR EYES ON TH/WRONG THINGS

TURN UR EYES 2THAT MANGER IN BETH & CUM AGIN 2ADOR HIM

CHRIST THE LORD

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

As seane Xmas contiue 2mov Zult climax Dec. 25, we R awar of comercilism/consumism of seane

We lef w/choic eithr get cautup in all huslt/bustl, or keep perspectiv of wat seane bout & actuly enjoy wat G has givn 2us  
'istr in Goshen, Ind wrot paraphras on Scrip this morn:  
(Luk's paraphrase on Luke 2:8-20)

This may not B tru thoz w/in ch, (& I hop this not our situatin), but it tru 4much of society 2day

If seek analyz why this so, can draw concl this Satns plan 2 thwart wat tru mean of Xmas is, & that is G sent specil gift 2 th/worl 2bring mank in2 specil relatship w/Himself

But evn w/in Ch ther R thoz who want pass off vast comercilism of th/yr 2anyth but Satn & his wiles  
(Ilus girls in SS & belief in Satn)

Satn cant let tru mesag of Xmas get out Bcuz that thwarts his plan & so he caus mas confus bout Xmas wh/clouds th/issu & 1M's of 1M's of peo hav no idea Xmas actuly tru story G's lov gift 2us  
W/in this story G's luv is 2B fnd not only ONE SPECIL GIFT, but sum othr simply Divin gifts as wel

So far hav lookd at 2=An Angel, & A Yng Woman

2day we lk at 3rd gift=Shepherds

In giv that specil gift, G includ thes othr gifts 2sho us we R involv in this ylan & how no cum 2certin clas of peo  
In fac, cam 4th in mannr complet oposit as worl of relig Bliev'd it wud

Imagin surpris of grp sheps fr/Palstin had 1st Xmas nite  
Can U pictur wat mus hav bin lik 2B watch ovr sheep on nite  
lik any othr nite & sudnly wer conf w/string & distrub phenomer  
Luke tel us=Vss 8-9=sheps confr w/supntarl lite & suprnaturl Beir  
We go tol here, but angel cud hav bin Gab whom we met in appears 2 Jch & Marv

this apear 2thez men rathr uniqu  
Jus who wer they, that they shudB visit by G this mannr?  
Anar is startl wen considr they outcasts of society

They wer despis by orthodox peo Bcuz cud not keep cermon law  
Rituls of hand wash/rules/regs cudnt B kep Bcuz necesty of remain w/floks

Th/honesty/intgrty of sheps was questinbl, they no alow testfy in cort of law

But man may cal them unclean, G duz not  
He chos thez very humbl/dwn 2erth men 2cum & C wat He-God, was go 2do in this birth  
This why Js no acpt universly; He no born 2roylty/powr as worl knows it

He born humbly, 2humbl parents; reveal 2humbl peo lik sheps: & He liv humbly & all this contrary 2wat worl seek in l sho wudB Savic  
(Ilus comon man & Country/Westrn singr both dy & recog of each)

All this prove we glorly glad 2B born into this seane  
vs 10=mesag giv 2sheps uniqu also  
word 4 Joy is CHARA & its complet mean in Luk always associat w/  
Salvatin=G has vist peo 2bring salv & this=GRT JOY WH/SHALB 2ALI  
& mesag continu=Vs 11

Ther canB no doubt who t is Baby was  
1st=He cal A SAVIOR & this ment this Baby 2B Th/Redeemer  
T sheps wer probly pius Jews & thev knu a prom Delivr was 2 cum 4th fr/the Jews, but this Delivr was 2B call'd=THE MESSIAH  
That ment He was 2B th/Aointd One fr/God  
Th/name=Xp ment=Th/Aointd One, & thus they knu He was th/Mesiah as promis 2cum

They receiv news wher 2find Him & then read=Vss 15-17, 20  
They cam 2Beth 2C 4selvs & 2pay homag 2this Sav  
They knu a Sav requir sacrif had 2B made & altho prob no knu or undrstud details at this time, they awar sacrif was 2B offr 4 salv/4givnes 2tak place

Ironc thing bout this event is that thez particulr sheps wer probly th/very ones ~~xxxxxx~~ who tend th/lambs wh/wudB used at th/following Feast Passovr 2grant 4givnes 2 th/Jews  
thoz lambs wer pastur outsid ~~xxxx~~ Beth & takn 2templ in Jeru 4 th/Feast in th/spring  
So here wer th/sheps of th/sacrificial lambs, visiting th/Lamb of God

But thez sheps servd nothr purp & that sumup in vss 17 & 20  
Wat tuk plac here? Thez sheps serv as 1st Evangelists  
They went out & tol all they seen/herd=AS IT WAS TOLD THEM  
Th/privileg info they receiv, they no keep 2selvs, they shard it in Vs 18we read of reactin 2 th/cum of Xp in2 th/worl  
Jn writ his Gospel=HE CAM UN2 HOS OWN & HIS OWN RECEIV HIM NOT Jn 1:11

This bin reactin of worl sinc Adv of Js in2 it  
(I? Bing Crosby & famly sing Xmas Carols & turn way in comunt)  
Th. essenc of wat worl has dun & continues 2do w/Js  
perhspas it bes expl in story bout Xmas play:  
(Ilus Xmas play & Lites turn off=U Switched off Js)  
We R invit by G ~~xxxxxx~~ 2tak Him in2 our harts/livs & turn us on  
But 2many peo do exac oposit  
R U bothr by this seane & geting turn off by it?  
If U R, U hav Ur eyes on th/wrong things  
Turn Ur eyes 2that manger in Beth & Cum agin 2 Ador Him, Xp the Lord



Comercilism/consumerism & choic keep perspectiv  
(Ilus paraphras of Lk 2:8-20)

Satn seek thwart mesag of Xmas  
(Ilus SS girls & belief in Satan=I THINK ITS LIKE  
SANTA CLAUS. ITS REALLY YOUR FATHER

8-9=mite of bin Gabriel agin  
Sheps wer outcasts etc

Js no accpt Bcuz humbl birth/lif  
(Ilus common man & cntry/westrn singr & deaths)

Vs 10=CHARA - JOY & in Luke asoc w/SALVATIN

Vs 11=SAVIOR - Messiah & sheps knu

XP th/LORD - Ancintd One - Messiah

vss 15-17, 20

ironic tend Pasovr lambs

vss 17 & 20

1st Evangelsist

vs 18=sho reactin of worl

Jn writ=HE CAM UN2HIS OWN & HIS OWN RECEIVD HIM  
NOT

(Ilus Bing Crosby & resfus 2 sing Xmas Carols)

(Ilus Xmas play &=U Switchd Off Js)

R U Bothr w/seasn & get turn off by it?

If U R U hav Ur eyes on wrong things

Tunr Ur eyes 2 manger in Beth & Cun agin 2 ador  
Him,Xp th/Lord

"Simply Divine Gifts: Shepherds"

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

As the season of Christmas continues to move to its ultimate climax on December 25, we are all aware of the commercialism and consumerism of this season. We are left with the choice of either getting caught up in all the hustle and bustle, or keeping our perspective of what the season is all about and actually enjoying that which God has given to us. A minister in Goshen, Indiana wrote a paraphrase on our Scripture of this morning. This is what he wrote: (Illustration of this paraphrase on Luke 2:8-20)

This may not be true for those of us within the church, (and I would hope that ~~ix~~ this isn't our situation), but it is true for much of our society today. If we seek to analyze why this is so we can only draw the conclusion that this is Satan's plan to thwart what the true meaning of Christmas is, and that is, that God sent a special gift to the world to bring mankind into a special relationship with Himself. But even within the church there are those who want to pass off the vast commercialism of the year to anything but Satan and his ~~wixxx~~ wiles.

(Illustration of girls in Sunday School class and belief in Satan)

A Sunday School class of first-graders had a lesson on Satan. As two little girls left Sunday School that morning the one said to the other, "You don't really believe that ~~busi-~~news about the devil, do you?". "Of course not," the other girl answered. "I think it's like Santa Claus. It's really your father."

Satan can't let the true message of Christmas get out because that thwarts his plan and so he causes the mass confusion about Christmas which clouds the issue and thousands upon thousands of people have no idea that Christmas is actually the true story of God's Gift of Love to us. Within this story of God's love is to be found not only THE ONE SPECIAL GIFT, but also some other "Simply Divine Gifts" as well. We have looked thus far at two of them, "An Angel" and "A Young Woman." Today we will look at a third gift and that is, "Shepherds." In giving that Special Gift, God included these other gifts to show us how we are involved in this plan and how it didn't just come to a certain class of people. In fact, it came forth in a manner completely opposite as the world of the religious believed it would.

Imagine the surprise a group of shepherds from Palestine had that first Christmas night! Can you picture what it must have been like to be watching over a flock of sheep on a night like any other night, and suddenly they were confronted with a strange and disturbing phenomenon. Luke tells us, (Read verses 8 & 9). The shepherds were confronted with a supernatural light and a supernatural being. We are not told so here, but this angel could well have been Gabriel whom we met in previous appearances to Zacharias and Mary. This appearance to these men was rather unique. Just who were they that they should be visited by God in this manner? The answer is startling when we consider that they were the outcasts of their society. They were despised by the orthodox people because they could not keep the ceremonial law. The rituals of hand-washings and rules and regulations couldn't be kept because of the necessity to remain with their flocks. The honesty and integrity of the shepherds was so questionable, they were not allowed to testify in a court of law. But



WHAT

-2-

A man may call unclean, God does not. He chose these very humble, down-to-earth men to come and see what He, (God), was going to do for mankind in this birth. This is why Jesus has not been accepted universally. He was not born to royalty, or power as the world knows it. He was born humbly, to humble parents; revealed to humble people like the shepherds,; and ~~xxx~~ lived humbly. All of this is contrary to what the world seeks in one who would be a Savior.

(Illustration of common man & celebrity country & western singer)

Just last week we had an example of this. A noted business leader, philanthropist and all around gentleman died. A well known country & western singer died about the same time. Three sentences about the death of the businessman appeared in the Wall Street Journal. Whole columns in newspapers across the nation, as well as many pictures on TV newscasts were devoted to the singer.

All of which proves that we glorify the glamorous, and look down on that which is common and ordinary..

The message given to the shepherds was also unique. We read in the 10th verse, "And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'"

The word for Joy is CHARA and its complete meaning in the book of Luke is always associated with Salvation. God has visited His people to bring them Salvation and this is the "Great Joy, which shall be to all people."

The message of the angel continues in the 11th verse and we read, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

There can be no doubt as to who this baby was. First He was called "A Saviour." This meant that this baby was destined to be "The Redeemer." As ~~xxx~~ pious Jews which these shepherds probably were, they knew that there was a promised Deliverer to come forth from the Jews. But this Deliverer was to be called "The Messiah." That meant He was to be the anointed One from God. The Name Christ, meant, "The Anointed One." Thus, they understood that this was the long promised Messiah.

They received the news of where to find Him, and then we read after the angels were gone from their midst, (Read verses 15-17 & 20). They came to Bethlehem to see for themselves and to pay homage to this Saviour. They knew that a Saviour required that a sacrifice had to be made. They probably didn't understand how, or any of the details at this time, but they were well aware that a sacrifice was offered in order for salvation, or forgiveness to take place. The ironic thing about this event is, that these particular shepherds were probably the very ones who tended the lambs which would be used at the following Feast of the Passover to grant forgiveness to the Jews. Those lambs were pastured outside of Bethlehem and taken to the temple in Jerusalem for the feast in the spring.. So here were the shepherds of the sacrificial lambs visiting the Lamb of God.

But these shepherds served another purpose and that is summed up in the 17th and 20th verses, (Read these verses). What took place here? These shepherds served as the first evangelists. They went out and told all that they had seen and heard, "AS IT WAS TOLD THEM." The privileged information they received, they didn't keep to themselves. They shared it. It is in the 18th verse that we read of the reaction to the coming of Christ into the world, (read this verse). John writing in his Gospel tells us, "He came unto His own, and His own knew Him not," John 1:11.

This has been the reaction of the world since the Advent of Jesus into it.

(Illustration of Bing Crosby and family singing Christmas carols in the neighborhood)

This is the essence of what the world has done and continues to do with Jesus. Perhaps it could be best explained in the story of the Christmas play:

(Illustration of Christmas play where lights all turned off & "You switched off Jesus")

We are invited by God to take Him into our hearts and turn us on. But too many people do the exact opposite. Are you bothered by this season and getting turned off by it? If you are, you have your eyes on the wrong things. Turn your eyes to the manger in Bethlehem and come again to adore Him, Christ the Lord.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 24, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Mr. Robert Weisenstein, Liturgist

Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Wendy Norman

+ + + + +  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 P.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

\*Opening Hymn No. 171 "Joy To The World"

\*Ascription

\*Call to Communion and Confession (Communion Bulletin)

\*Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Lighting of the Christmas Wreath

Christmas Scriptures and Carols

- The Promise: Who - Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7

Where - Micah 5:2

Carol Response No. 178 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
(first verse)

The Journey - Luke 2:1-7

The Heavenly Announcement - Luke 2:8-14

Carol Response No. 179 "The First Noel" (first verse)

The Common Visitors - Luke 2:15-20

Carol Response No. 197 "It Came Upon The Midnight  
Clear" (first verse)

The Royal Visitors - Matthew 2:1-11

Carol Response No. 206 "We Three Kings"  
(first and last verses)

The Offering of our Gifts

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology = page 382

Communion Carol No. 193 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

The Holy Communion (page 2 of Communion Bulletin)

The Distribution of the Elements

\*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Christmas Dialogue: "The Welcome Inn"

The Candlelighting

The Candlelighting Carol "Silent Night"

"Silent Night"

Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm all is bright,  
Round yon virgin, mother and child, Holy infant so  
tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night, Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing  
al le lu ia;

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

(Congregation Standing on the third verse)

Silent Night, Holy Night, Son of God, loves pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of  
redeeming grace,

Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord, at thy birth.

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Marge Smiley will greet our members and guests at the  
door on this glorious evening.

Nursery will be provided by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.

The Elders and Deacons will be serving as Ushers and  
serving the Lord's Supper this evening.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

ELDERS, DEACONS, AND COUNCIL OFFICERS are urged to be in  
church on Sunday. You will be installed in your  
respective positions.

A reminder that all gifts, monies, etc. that you wish to  
have credited to your statement for 1988 must be in by  
Friday at noon in time to bank it.

Communion Cards are in the back of the pews. Please be sure  
to fill them out. You may drop them in the offering  
plate. Also we encourage you to please sign the red  
attendance record book. This helps me to complete your  
records for attendance, giving and communing for 1988.

During the lighting of the little candles, we ask that you  
tilt your candle toward the one that is lit. This  
prevents dripping wax and therefore, no one will be burnt.  
Please leave the communion folders in the pews after the  
service.

Daniel: Good evening and welcome to "Profiles Of Progress." This is Daniel the news analyst, correspondent and anchor of station J-E-R-U here in Jerusalem.  
My special guest on this segment of "Profiles Of Progress" is the noted and distinguished businessman, Eli the Innkeeper.  
Good evening Eli, and welcome to Profiles Of Progress."

Eli: Good evening Daniel.

Daniel: Although you are now a very successful businessman, it wasn't always that way was it? Isn't it true Eli, that you were once a struggling inn keeper and ready to quit?

Eli: Yes, that's very true. My first inn was located in Jericho. I had believed that this location would prove to be very lucrative since most of the Temple priests lived in this city.

Daniel: But why would you think that the priests would make your business if they lived there? They would not be overnight guests in your inn because of this.

Eli: That's true Daniel, but I was relying on their patronage at the Inn for meals, as well as bringing their overnight guests to stay there. But I suppose there is some truth to the saying that the Temple priests are a little tight with their money.

Daniel: But even though your Inn at Jericho wasn't successful, wasn't there a rather unique event that took place there?

Eli: There certainly was. A man was traveling to Jericho when he was waylaid by thieves. They mugged him and stole his money and donkey and left him for dead.  
The story as it was relayed to me was that first a temple priest passed the man up, then a Levite, and all the while the man is lying in the road hurt and bleeding. Then a Samaritan came along, gave the man first-aid and brought him to my Inn on his donkey. I was given instructions to take care of the man until the Samaritan returned from his trip and he would repay me for any and all expenses.

Daniel: But there's more to it than that, isn't there?

Eli: If you mean the near riot we had, there sure is more to it. Because I let a Samaritan come to my Inn, and I took his money, and he would return later and perhaps stay there, the religious community was offended. The next morning when I got up to begin my day, there was a line of pickets out front. One of them who was acting as their leader came in and informed me that as long as I continued to have dealings with Samaritans my Inn would be boycotted by all self-respecting Jews. I told them I had to treat all customers the same and couldn't be partial.

Daniel: So how did this affect your business?

Eli: It had a very adverse effect on it. Business began to drop off, and I had to either close up, sell out, or stay until I went broke.

Daniel: So what was your decision?

Eli: I was told that there was an Inn for sale in Bethlehem which was having similar problems and I began to check it out.



Daniel: But if that Inn was experiencing the same problems as yours, why would you want to consider moving there?

Eli: Well Dan, there was little inside information that I had access to. A friend of mine had been to Rome and he heard from an influential friend while there that there was going to be a special census declared by the Emperor Augustus Caesar for the purpose of raising more taxes.

Daniel: And so this prompted you to buy that Inn?

Eli: It sure did. But the problem was, there was no definite time period on that census and so I had to decide if I could make ends meet until then. So I decided to take a chance and I bought the Inn.

Daniel: And that is the beginning of your success story. But what about the ugly rumors that you became a hardheaded businessman?

Eli: That all came about because no matter what I would have done when the census took place, I simply couldn't please everyone. The decree as set forth by the Emperor was that each adult had to register in their hometown. That meant that people were traveling all over Palestine to get back to the place of their birth. For many it was something they complied with because it meant getting to see the old homestead and the relatives and friends who were still there. For others it was a necessary evil to be endured and they were not in a festive spirit. Naturally, ours being the only Inn in the city, we were booked up in short order.

Daniel: That explains the crowding in Bethlehem, but what about your harsh dealings with some of these people? What about the family you sent to the stable?

Eli: Well Dan, people need to realize that any Inn can only hold so many people. No matter how many rooms you have, there are always times when that number is not enough. So, I had to turn people away. And as for that couple, what else could I do? I felt sorry for them, they looked so poor and tired. I did the only thing I could do when I was told she was ready to deliver. People may call me names and look down on my actions, but I at least gave them a place to stay out of the cold. I wonder how many other people gave them the elbow and didn't even offer to help.

Daniel: So how did all of this affect you as events began to unfold after that woman gave birth in the stable?

Eli: The events of that night actually began shortly after I had sent that couple to the stable. I had our busboy lead the man, woman, and donkey around the back to the stable. I sent one of our young waitresses out to give them whatever creature comforts we could, like some blankets, water, and make sure the donkey was fed. It wasn't too long after this, at least it didn't seem long, but I decided to step outside for a breather. It was pitch black, but there was one real bright star moving rather fast across the sky. I stood quietly and watched it for a while. But then my attention was drawn to the hills just outside of town. It seemed like right at the top of one of the hills, the whole sky lit up. It was rather wierd and it seemed like singing was drifting over the night air from that hilltop. I watched for a while and the light disappeared

just as quickly as it had appeared. I rubbed my eyes to make sure I wasn't just seeing things. But those hills were just as black as ever and I wondered if I wasn't imagining it all.

Daniel: Did you say anything to anyone else about this?

Eli: No, I didn't. I went back in the Inn to resume my duties to see that our guests were comfortable and the food and drink adequate. I didn't think anymore about it, but shortly after I got back to work the stableboy came in to tell me excitedly that woman in the stable had given birth to a baby. I knew that the time was near, but I was hoping that it wouldn't happen until after they had left town.

Daniel: What did you do after you heard this news?

Eli: I did the only thing I could do. I sent one of our waitresses out to make them as comfortable as possible. She came back and told me that they were using the manger as a crib for the baby.

Daniel: But that was only the beginning of this nighttime adventure wasn't it?

Eli: That's putting it mildly. A short time later there was some noise outside and I went to look. It was a group of shepherds asking anyone in sight where a certain baby had been born. They were telling of a bright light, and angels talking to them, and singing about the birth of this baby. They were making the claim that this baby was the Messiah of the Jews. At this point I was confused.

Daniel: Why would you be confused? You knew about the birth, why wasn't it just what the shepherds were saying it was?

Eli: I'm a reasonable man, Dan. Look at it from the standpoint of what is normal and proper. Have you ever heard that the Messiah of the Jews was to be born in this way? Doesn't all of the Jewish Scriptures tell of some sort of King coming to rescue the Jews? It just didn't make sense at the time. Here were these smelly, common shepherds being told the special news that this birth in the stable in the back of my Inn was the King of the Jews. Who could believe that of all of the Jews, these men were selected as the ones to hear this special revelation?

Daniel: What did you do when these shepherds told you what had happened and why they had come in from the hills?

Eli: I just told them to go and look for themselves because I was too busy to conduct tours of my stable. And besides, I told them I was doubtful about all of this.

Daniel: Was that the end of this event on that night?

Eli: Are you kidding? That was only the beginning. First it was shepherds, and then around midnight there was an entourage of men riding camels who said they were kings from the East. They rode into town in all their finery and splendor asking where this "King" had been born. I was just sorry that all my rooms were full because I just knew that I was missing out on making a fine piece of change from these fellows.



Daniel: Did these "kings" give any indication why they came? Was it just some whim that brought them?

Eli: They told me they had followed a super bright star and that in their computations of astronomical phenomena this kind of a special star meant that a powerful King had been born, or was to be born. They told me they had checked with King Herod and he had given them his blessing to come to Bethlehem and check it all out. Somehow I just couldn't picture that sly old fox as sitting still while a baby was born and was called "The King of the Jews." He had always been so jealous of anyone who came close to upstaging him, that he eliminated wives, and sons to prevent anyone from assuming the throne. It got so bad that the Romans said it was better to be a pig in Herod's household than to be his wife or children.

Daniel: Did you tell these kings that you had noticed a large fast moving star in the night sky?

Eli: Yes, I did.

Daniel: And what was their reaction?

Eli: They were happy to hear that because it supported their reason for traveling from the East.

Daniel: Do you know what happened after they finished talking to you?

Eli: I heard it secondhand, but I was told that they entered the stable and bowed before that infant and gave Him three expensive presents.

Daniel: And what were those presents?

Eli: Of course gold was one of them and this in itself lends the belief that this was a King, because gold is not given to common ordinary children. The specially made incense called "Frankincense" was given to Him and again this indicates His royalty. But the third gift was rather peculiar.

Daniel: Why do you say that?

Eli: Well, that gift was Myrrh and you know as well as I do that myrrh is a spice that is used to anoint dead bodies. Why would anyone give such a grisly gift on this special occasion is what everyone asked. But I think I have finally discovered the answer.

Daniel: What makes you think you have unraveled the mystery?

Eli: It has taken about thirty-three years, but that's another story.

Daniel: Well since you have become so well known as The World's Innkeeper, perhaps our audience would like to hear that story.

Eli: Very well, I'll tell it. You see it all started right here in Bethlehem. I know that I didn't have room for that baby to be born in a proper place, but as the years have rolled by I have learned that all of this may have been according to a special plan by God.

Daniel: Does this mean that you of all people have come to be a follower of this God the Jews worship?

Eli: Up until this day I would have said that was not possible. Shortly after that special census and the birth and so on, I had the opportunity to buy an INN in Jerusalem. As you well know, I named that Inn "The Welcome Inn." I determined from then on that anyone, would be welcome, rich or poor, king or commoner and it has paid off. But that couple went back home to the little town of Nazareth and life settled down for all of us. Then I heard that a family had come to the temple with their twelve-year-old son and that son had held his own with the Rabbi's in the temple. My curiosity was aroused and I watched year after year as this boy grew to manhood. When He was about 30 years-old, He began what some have called "His ministry." It wasn't too long until word started to drift into town about some of the wonderful things He was capable of doing. Those words of His deeds caught the attention of the Chief Priest and his selected cohorts. It was then that at each Feast of the Passover this young man was watched very closely and even followed to get evidence against Him. So it was that just a week ago He rode into town on a donkey and was acclaimed as "King of the Jews," and they sang, "Hossanna, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." Well, you can bet that this caught the attention of these Jewish leaders. Every day I heard bits and snatches of conversations about a plot being put forth to eliminate Him. But more than that, I knew a few things the Jewish authorities didn't.

Daniel: Do you want to elaborate?

Eli: I suppose to do so now certainly can't cause Him anymore harm. He was coming to Jerusalem to spend the Feast of the Passover with His men, and one of them came to me and told me.

Daniel: Why would they convey this message to you?

Eli: Well, you see, I just happen to have a large room which I use for special banquets and dinners and they were looking for just such a place. I knew they didn't have money, so I gave them permission to use my upper room. Well, they ate the feast there and after they went into a nearby garden this man, Jesus, was arrested by the Romans. Jerusalem was swarming with people who had come for the feast. My Inn was full, except it now held Roman soldiers, visiting Jewish leaders and those who had made reservations to be here. The next day I heard that the Romans were to have a special execution. At this time each year they always did, but this one was to execute this so called "King of the Jews." From what I heard the trial started early in the morning and this man named Jesus was nailed on a cross at 9:00 A.M. with a thief on each side of Him and about 3:00 P.M. He died. All of us thought that was the end of Him, but it wasn't. On Sunday morning, word reached Jerusalem that He had come back from the grave and was alive and seen by many. Naturally, this caused quite a stir, especially among the Jewish leaders.

Daniel: Do you know for a fact that this is true?

Eli: Do I know for a fact? I sure do, because these disciples of His asked permission to use my upper room after He was executed. They wanted to hide from those leaders and it was here that I saw Him on Sunday after He came back from the grave.



Daniel: So how has all of this affected you now?

Eli: I have learned that this is the Messiah and that birth in a stable in back of my Inn was everything that was said about it and more. I'm sorry I didn't open my heart then and make room for that baby. But you see Daniel, I have had these years to discover who this baby really was and is and from it I have opened my heart to Him. He came He said, "To give me life, and to give it more abundantly." Yes, I've become a follower of His and my heart is open to Him and to the things of God. My prayer is that every person would truly look at Him and make room in their hearts for Him this day.

Daniel: Well thank you Eli for being our guest. I trust that those who hear this message will take it to heart.

Eli: So do I Dan, so do I. Thank you and goodnight!

NOEL, NOEL,  
JESUS IS BORN, NOEL!

-----  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 25, 1988  
Mr. Robert Weisenstein, Liturgist  
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music  
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist  
Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Wendy Norman  
-----

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

B.B. Announcements  
Congregational Greeting  
Joys

Prayer Requests

Choral Introit "Sing! Jesus Christ Is Born"

ME \*Opening Hymn No. 193 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

\*Ascription

\*Call to Worship:

B.B. — Leader: Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the  
glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

People: (singing) O come, let us adore Him!

ME — Pastor: And nations shall come to thy light, and kings  
to the brightness of thy rising. For unto us  
a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

People: (singing) O come, let us adore Him!

B.B. — Leader: And the government shall be upon His shoulders;  
and His name shall be called Wonderful,  
Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting  
Father, the Prince of Peace.

People: (singing) O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord. Amen.

B.B. \*Invocation (In Unison)

O Loving Father, You sent Your Son into the world as a  
bright and morning star to shine as a great Light to man  
as he dwelt in the midst of the darkness, send The Light  
of Your presence into our hearts this Christmas morning.  
We have spent the previous days preparing our lives that  
today could culminate in a joyous experience of Christmas,  
which is, "God with us." That Light of Bethlehem shines  
above the hope of this world and points us to a humble  
beginning for our Redeemer. Today, turn all of our dark-  
ness to The Light, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Hymn No. 178 "O Little Town of Behtlehem"

ME-Christmas Prayer

Prayer Response Hymn No. 195 "Silent Night"

B.B. The Offering of our Gifts

Offertory

\*Doxology - page 382

ME-Installation of Council Officers and Members

Anthem: "It's The Love"

B.B. Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: A Baby"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 171 "Joy To The World"

\*Closing Chimes

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

+ + + + + \*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mr. & Mrs. Herb Shearer will greet our members and guests  
at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be Dick Mangel, George Pflugh, Dick  
Dally and Don Kingsley.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the  
hospital this week.

Hospitalized:

Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 8 visitors.

Van Driver for January 1st will be Dick Dally.

A REMINDER: All gifts, monies, etc. that you wish to have  
credited to your statement for 1988 must be in by Friday  
at noon in time to bank it. Thank you!

Help is needed to take the Living Christmas tree down on  
January 3rd. Please come and join us at 7 P.M.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 1989 are in the back of the church.  
Please take a moment and pick yours up. Please pick up  
those of your family as well. The remaining envelopes  
will be distributed by Council members after Christmas.

The Flower Chart for 1989 is hanging in the Narthex. Take  
a minute and sign up for flowers now.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.  
The Pastor will assist you if you desire.



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SAGAMORE  
DECEMBER 20, 1998

Greeting and Joys for the Week

Announcements

Prayer Requests

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*KIDS*  
Hymns: Silent Night p. 195  
Oh Little Town of Bethlehem p. 178  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing p. 184

Offering Prayer

Offering

Doxology

Prayer and Prayer Requests

Hymn

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 Christmas Story

Sermon: Simply Divine Gift: A Baby

*LORD'S SUPPER*  
Invitational Hymn

Benediction

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. the invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

PLEASE STAND

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE WEEK.....

A special Candle Light Service  
will be held Christmas Eve, Thursday  
December 24, 1998, at 7:00 P.M.  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

*DAILY BREAD BIKLETS*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jessica Abel - December 20th  
Kathy Morgan - December 17th  
Florence Cooper - December 26th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Ralph and Shirley Link - December 15th

At Christmas may we celebrate  
the true meaning of the season.....  
Jesus Christ.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of the  
Heavenly lights....."

James 1:17

*MIKERRA FAMILY  
FAMILIES OF SERVICE PEOPLE  
LEE RAY  
JIM - HEART  
BRUCE  
GENE/SIS JANUEL  
RON/DD*

SCRIP: IK 261-20; SERMON: "SIMPLY DIVINE GIFTS: A BABY"

(ILUS CHURCH SIGN - UNTO US A CHIL IS BORN 8FT LNG, 3FT WIDE)  
 (EXAMPL 1809 births and world events in Europe)  
 ABOUT 1800 YRD B' THIS WORLD IN THRET GRIP ROMN EMPIR  
 AUGUST CEASR ON THRON & RUL W/IRON FIST, HIS DECREE.....  
 VS 1-3=REASN-PRAS MCR TAXES & MENT EVR PERSN LIV PALESTIN  
 HAD 2GO 2PLACE OF BIRTH & REGISTR  
 BCUZ THIS MAN & PREG GIRLFEND 2WHOM ENGAGD CAM 2BETH & READ...  
 VS 4-7=A BABY WAS BORN, BUT THIS WUZ NO TIME 2BRING BABIES IN2  
 ALREDY CROWDED WORLD  
 BUT THIS BABY CAM IN 2DRK WORL 2BRING LITE & ACCORD 2UNIQUE PLAN  
 OF GOD  
 (ILUS LITTL GIRL AND "I'M A PRESENT")  
 GOD WRAPD THAT BABY IN THOZ "SWADDLING CLOTHES - (EXPLAIN BANDS)  
 THIS WAS "TH/PAMPERS OR LUVS" OF THAT DAY  
 GOD WRAP HIM & HE BCAM PRESENT THAT HAS 4EVR CHNGD TH/WORLD  
 OR AT LEAST IT WAS MENT 2DO SO  
 UNFORTUNATLY, 4MANY PEO G'S PRESENT IS SUMTH TROT OUT ONCE A  
 YR, DUSTD OFF, & AFTR XMAS PUT BAK IN STORAG  
 (ILUS SPERRY'S BUK, JS THEN & NOW, & WOMAN ASK FOR "JS NOW& THEN  
 THATS WAT MANY DO W/JS,=SEEK HIM NOW & THEN BUT NOT FULTIM BASIS  
 PERHAPS BCUZ DIF SORT OUT WAT THIS BIRTH REALY MEANS  
 WE R TOL HE WAS "EMANUEL" OR, "G W/US" MEAN OF COPS HE G/FLESH  
 BUT HE ALSO HUMAN & THIS MOR DIF 2GRASP  
 IN HIS HUMANITY HAD 2B CARED 4, & WHOEVER HERD OF A GOD WHO HAD  
 2HAY HIS DEADE CHNGD?? OR 2B FED & BATHED??  
 PERHAPS HARDES THING 2GRASP IS HE FULY GOD, & ALSO FULY HUMAN  
 HE CALLD ~~TH/~~ TH/JEWS" BUT IF LK AT HELPLES BABY WHER IS POWR  
 A KING MUS 4HAY??  
 PERHAPS BES ANSR IS INSITES CHILDREN GIV US IN THER THINKING  
 (ILUS 1ST GRADERS & NATIVITY PLAY & "CONGRATS JOSEPH, ITS A GOD)  
 TH PRECISLY WAT JN WRIT ABOUT IN GOSPEL:  
 "IN TH/BGIN WAS TH/WORD, & TH/WORD WAS W/GOD, & TH/WORD WAS GOD"  
 NO ONE CANB PART THIS SUPERNATURL DRAMA & NOTE MOVD BY IT  
 G CAM IN TINY INFANT, GRWW 2MANHOD FACE 2REFLEX, PROBS WE FACE  
 HE AS HUMAN AS EA US, & FR/THIS IDENT SHUD HAV MADE RADICL CHNG  
 IN ALL MANK, BUT IT DIDNT  
 (ILUS BISHOP SHEEN & PLUTARCH & STORY OF DEAD MAN)  
 THER SUMTH MISS IN EA PERSN DZNT KNO JS XP AS LORD & SAVIOR.  
 THER CONTINUL SERCH 4WAT WIL BRING PEAC/HAPNES THIS TIME YR  
 XMAS STORY HAV HERD OVR & OVR, BUT HOW DUZ IT AFFECT US??  
 TH/ANSR IS WAT DUZ JS MEAN TO US??  
 (ILUS SKUL KIDS & NKN WAT DID CN XMAS???)  
 VSS 10-11WE SHUD REJOIC THAT JS HAS CUM, BUT HOW WIL WE KNO THIS  
 VS 12=HE WAS G'S SEEMPLY DIVIN GIFT - GIFT OF LUV 4MANK  
 BUT MUS ASK "HOW LNG DUZ THIS JOY LAST??  
 (ILUS THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS)  
 OUR LVS SHUD NEVRB TH/SAME BCUZ OF XMAS  
 DO U KNO TH/BABE OF BETH AS UR SAVIOR CHRIST TH/LORD???  
 "OH COME LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD"

(Ilus ch/sign=UN2 US A CHIL IS BORN.  
 8FT LNG, 3FT WIDE)

1809 - Europ, Napoleon  
 born -Darwin  
 Poe  
 Tennyson  
 Gladstone  
 Lincoln

1800 yr B4 Aug Caesar on thron  
 vss 1-3  
 vs 4=all males  
 vs 5  
 vs 6  
 vs 7  
 (Ilus girl, red bow & I'M A PRESENT)

(Ilus Wilard Sperry & buk Js, Then & Now & woman  
 want buk=JS, NOW & THEN)

Js as G w/us

Js as human  
 (Ilus 1st gradrs Xmas play & Dr.=CONGRATS JOSEPH  
 IT'S A GOD)  
 Jn 1;1=IN TH/BGIN WAS TH/WORD & TH/WORD WAS W/GOD  
 & TH/WORD WAS GOD

Js grew 2B a man & face probs we face & ovrcum  
 this shud hav chng worl

(Ilus Bish Sheen, Plutarch & man try rais ded man  
 THER'S SUMTHING MISSING INSIDE)

(I''s class aftr Xmas vacatin & wat they did on  
 \ s - WAT A FREND WE HAV IN JS)

vss 10-11  
 vs 12=tel us He is THE ONE  
 we shud sing=vs 14  
 Do U kno that Babe as Ur L & Sav?



"Simply Divine Gifts: A Baby"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

(Ilus Ch/sign=UN? US A CHIL IS BORN. 8FT LNG & 3FT WID)

(I? 1809 Europ,Nap,births=Darwin,Poe,Tenyson,Gladston,Lincoln)  
bouv 1800 ys prior 2thez event th/worl grip thretning grasp Romn  
Empir

Aug Caesar on thron & rul w/iron fist

Vs 1-3=Decree evrone mus go homtwn & registr

this reg was census 2rais taxes & ment evr persn Palstin had go

2plac of birth & reg

vs 4=tels of Jos Bouz this requirmen of all males

this requir of males Bouz mos males wer heds of houshol

vs 5=tel us bout Mary conditin

vs 6=time 4birth & vs 7 tel us of that birth

Mary had her baby & swad clothes wer th/pamprs/lufs of her day  
This baby was brot in2 a sin darkn worl ~~xxxxxx~~ & this was no  
time 2B hav babies

But this was all plan,a uniq plan of G

(Ilus littl girl,red bow & "I'M A PRESENT DADDY")

This exactly wat Js was

He was THE Simply Divin Gif fr/G's gif of luv

But unfortunately,G's presen is sumth 2B thot of once a yr

(Ilus Wilard Sperry buk=Js,then & now & womn=Js,Now & Then)

This wat many peo do w/Js,THEY SEEK HIM now & then,& not on a  
fulltin basis

Perhaps reasn 4this is due 2fac it dif sort out wat this birth  
really means

We R tol He Emmanuel,or,G w/us,mean of corse He is G in flesh

This why necessary He B bron in mannr was born=2 a Virgin

his ment had no real earthly Fathr

This doctrin we struggl w/wh but can undrst this phenom if want2

May no undrst fully,but can C G's plan in this

But Js also human & this wat hard 2grasp

in his humanty He had 2hav diapr chngd & ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ had

2B fed,bathd,etc & who evr herd of a god who needed this?

He was cal=K of Kings,but wher was His powr? A king had 2hav

powr 2rul,but this baby didnt

perhaps th/bes expl of Xmas is alway 2B fnd in way childrn giv

us insites in2 ther think of it

(Ilus 1st gradrs & Congrats Jos its a God)

This exac how Jn describ in his godpl=IN TH/BGIN WAS TH/WORD &

TH/WORD WAS W/GOD,& TH/WORD WAS GOD

But no one can B part this supnaturl even & not B mov by it

G cam in tiny infan & that infan gru 2manhud & fac all probs &  
perplextys U & I face

He was as human as ea of us & fr/this idnety we can C that shud  
hav made radicl chng in th/worl,but it didnt

(Ilus Bishop Sheen & Plutarch,& ther sumth mising insid)  
Ther sumth mis insid ea man who duzat kno Js Xp as L & Sav  
Ther continul serch by many peo of this worl 4that wh/wil bring  
Y es & peace

andis Xmas seasn we hav pas thru is exampl of this

4 too many peo it bin jus time 2buy hapnes w/presents,fun,&  
partys

But it only w/relationship w/Js Xp we can find any peac 4our  
trubled livs

Th/Xmas story mayB 4us sumth we herd ovr & ovr agin

but ea yr it is G entr worl agin 2cum 2us & 2B w/us

How duz Xmas affect us?

Ansr lys in wat Js means 2us

(Ilus skul clas afr Xmas vactin & wat they did on Xmas)

Xmas shud hav this efec on evry lif

we shud all B abl say=Wat a Frend we hav in Js

this wat G intend 4all mankind

that bit of news wh/was giv by angl is ours 2hear agin & agin

ea yr & 2rejoic that Js has cum=vs 10 & 11

& how wil we kno this is THE ONE?

Vs 12 is th/ansr

He cam as a Baby

He was G's Simply Divin Gift

He was G's suprem gif of luv 2 & 4 mankind

Our livs shud nevr B th/sam agin once we hav visit th/mangr in  
Beth

Our respsns shudB that we prais G & say=GLORY TO G IN TH/HIGHES

& ON EARTH PEAC, GUDWIL TOWARD MEN

Do U kno that Babe of Beth as Ur Sav,Xp Th/Lord?

## "Simply Divine Gifts: A Baby"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

(Illustration of church sign)

The pastor of a small town church sent one of his parishioners to the big city to place an order for a Christmas sign to be hung outside the door of the church. The parishioner lost the note with the information which gave the message and the dimensions. So he went to the Western Union office and wired the pastor, "Rush copy of motto and dimensions." When the clerk read the message the pastor sent back, she almost fainted. It read: "Unto us a child is born. Eight feet long and three feet wide."

~~The year 1809~~ In the year 1809 the world was held in the grips of fear as everyone's attention was drawn to the events in Europe. Napoleon was sweeping across the continent and that was the extent of the news. But in that same year there were events taking place which would give to the world some of the world's most noted people. In that year, Charles Darwin was born, whose theory has caused controversy ever since. Edgar Allen Poe was born that year, and so was Alfred Lord Tennyson. William Gladstone the author of freedom for slaves in the British Empire was born in England, while in a log cabin in Kentucky, a baby named Abraham was also born, and he was the American who freed the slaves and his name was Abraham Lincoln.

About 1800 years prior to these events, the world was gripped in the threatening grasp of the Roman Empire. Augustus Caesar was on the throne of the Empire and ruled with an iron fist. <sup>MS 1-3</sup> His decree was that everyone had to go to their hometown and register. This registration was a census to raise more taxes. This meant that every person living in Palestine had to go to their place of birth and register. It was from this registration that a man and his pregnant girlfriend to whom he was engaged came to their hometown of Bethlehem. While they were there we are told in Scripture, "the time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth her firstborn son and laid him in a manger." A baby was born. But this was no time to be bringing babies into an already crowded world. This baby came into a dark world to bring light and it was all according to a unique plan by God. ~~But~~

(Illustration of little girl, and, "I'm a present") <sup>PAMPERS/LUX OF THAT DAY</sup> God wrapped that baby in those "sawdrolling clothes" and He became a ~~present~~ a present that has forever changed the world. Or at least it was supposed to change the world. For many people God's present is just something that is trotted out once a year, dusted off, and then put back in storage a few days after Christmas.

(Illustration of Sperry's book, "Jesus, Then and Now.")

Willard Sperry wrote a book entitled, "Jesus, Then and Now." A woman wanting a copy of that book went to a bookstore and asked for the book, "Jesus, Now and then."

That's what many do with Jesus. They seek him just now and then and not on a fulltime basis. Perhaps the reason for this is due to the fact that it is difficult to sort out what this birth really means. We are told that He was "Emmanuel," or, "God with us." Meaning of course that He was God in the flesh. Now there are those who struggle with this and perhaps can grasp it after some explanation of this phenomena ~~fixed~~ by God.

But He was also human and this may be more difficult to grasp. In His humanity He had to be cared for and who ever heard of a god that had to have his diapers changed, or had to be fed and bathed? Perhaps the hardest thing for anyone to grasp is that Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully human. He was called, "The King of the Jews." But if we look at a baby we see how helpless and fragile they are. Where is the power that a king must

HAVE?



Perhaps the best explanation of Christmas is always to be found in the way children give us insights into their thinking of it.

(Illustration of first graders and "Congratulations Joseph, it's a God")

That is ~~exactly~~ how John describes it in His Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

But no one can be a part of this supernatural drama and not be moved by it. God came in a tiny infant and that infant grew to manhood and faced all of the perplexities and problems which you and I face. He was as human as each of us and from this identity we can see that should have made a radical change in all mankind. But it ~~does~~n't.

(Illustration of Bishop Fulton Sheen and Plutarch)

Bishop Fulton Sheen once told a story that Plutarch related. Plutarch said there was a man who sought to make a dead man stand upright. He tried all kinds of ways, with no success. Finally he gave up saying, "There is something missing on the inside." And Bishop Sheen concluded by saying, "This is the story of everyman."

There is something missing inside of each person who doesn't know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There is a continual search by many people of this world for that which will bring peace and happiness. This Christmas season we have passed through is an example of this. For too many people it has been just a means to try to buy that happiness with presents and fun and parties. But it is only with a relationship with Jesus Christ that we can find any peace for our troubled lives.

The Christmas story may be for us something that we have heard ~~over~~ and over again. But each year it is God entering the world again to come to us and be with us.

How does Christmas affect us? The answer lies in what Jesus means to us.

(Illustration school class after Christmas vacation & what they did on Christmas)

Christmas should have this effect on every life. That is exactly what God intended for mankind. That bit of good news which was given by the angel is ours to hear again and again each year and to rejoice that Jesus has come.

"Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

And how will we know if this is the One? "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

He came as a baby. He was God's Simply Divine Gift. He was God's supreme gift of love to and for mankind. Our lives should never be the same once we have visited the manger in Bethlehem. Our response should be that we praise God saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Do you know that Babe of Bethlehem as your Savior, Christ the Lord?













Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.